Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

'Limited Arab Summit' Planned for 27 May

'Intensive' Efforts Under Way

JN1905181495 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 May 95

[Report by Muna Salim in Cairo]

[FBIS Translated Text] Intensive Arab consultations are under way to set a date for a limited Arab summit to be held in Morocco to discuss the Jewish settlement activity in Jerusalem.

Informed Arab diplomatic sources have told our radio that it is likely the summit will be held in Rabat or Casablanca on 27 May. The summit will be attended by eight Arab states: Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Palestine, as well as the United Arab Emirates in its capacity as the current chairman of the Arab League Ministerial Council.

Moroccan Prime Minister Abdellatif Filali will arrive in Cairo today. He will meet with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak tomorrow morning for further consultations on the summit before leaving for Damascus and Riyadh for talks with President Hafiz al-Asad and Saudi King Fahd.

After returning from Rabat yesterday evening, Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid told our radio that he had obtained the approval of King Hassan II to hold this summit. At the same time, he warned that the U.S. veto at the Security Council will cause wide-scale wrath in the Arab world and will endanger the entire peace process.

Heads of State Requested To Attend

JN2105125595 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 May 95

[Report by Randah Habib in Amman]

[FBIS Translated Text] The issue of the Arab mini-summit to be held in Morocco late this month has not been settled yet; it hinges on the fulfillment of certain conditions.

Stating this to our radio, an Arab diplomatic source said Moroccan King Hassan II stipulates the attendance of the Arab heads of state, and not their representatives, before he can officially declare the convocation of this summit. The king prefers to cancel the meeting if some heads cannot attend.

The two Moroccan envoys continue their contacts with the rulers of the concerned states, which are Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, the PLO, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Algeria, in addition to Morocco.

Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti said the summit talks will not be confined to discussing the issue of Jerusalem, but will seek to pave the way for rebuilding a unified and internationally influential Arab stand that serves the Arab strategic aims and pan-Arab security in general, and that bolsters the peace process in particular.

Objectives of Summit Detailed

NC2105131395 Paris AFP in English 1259 GMT 21 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman, May 21 (AFP)—An Arab mini-summit on Jerusalem is uncertain to go ahead because its host Morocco insists that all invited Arab heads of state themselves attend, diplomats said Sunday [21 May].

Morocco's "King Hassan II requests the personal presence of the leaders of the invited nations and refuses that they be merely represented," an Arab diplomat told AFP.

"If they refuse (to attend), he prefers the summit be cancelled pure and simple."

The source, close to ongoing preparations, said that two envoys of the king touring the Arab countries concerned are seeking firm commitments from heads of state before officially convening the summit, set for next Saturday.

King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria rarely travel to attend such meetings, although they both participated in a summit with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in Alexandria in December 1994.

Abdel Hadi Boutaleb, one of the Moroccan envoys, said the PLO and eight other Arab countries will be invited to the meeting: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Syria and the United Arab Emirates.

Mubarak said Bahrain, current president of the Gulf Cooperation Council, was also to be invited.

The summit aims at forging a common Arab position on the Israeli confiscation of 53 hectares (131 acres) of land in Arab East Jerusalem and US moves to transfer its embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to the holy city.

Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti told AFP on Sunday that the summit was to "restore and strengthen a common Arab position able to weigh in on the international scene in a way that serves Arab interests."

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While Mubarak has agreed to take part in the summit, Jordan's King Husayn has not yet announced he will attend after receiving an invitation from Boutaleb on Saturday.

"Jordan has never missed Arab gatherings. The place, the participation or the absence of some will not affect us at all," al- Kabariti said.

PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat said Sunday he would participate after meeting Boutaleb, adding that he "definitely" expected positive results from the summit.

'Arafat will meet Mubarak on Wednesday in Cairo to discuss the situation in Jerusalem, the Egyptian press reported Sunday.

Boutaleb is also to travel to Lebanon to issue in invitation to President Ilyas al-Hirawi. Meanwhile Moroccan Prime Minister Abdel Latif Filali arrived in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Sunday, after visiting Saudi Arabia and Egypt. Filali will also travel to Syria.

The summit is set to be the largest gathering of Arab leaders since the 1991 Gulf War.

Arab League Chief on U.S. Veto, Arab Summit

NC2105142295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1324 GMT 21 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 21 May (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has stated that the recent Israeli measures in Jerusalem and the U.S. backing for them will not lead to regional peace and stability.

In remarks to correspondents today, 'Abd-al-Majid said that the U.S. veto that thwarted the UN Security Council's condemnation of Israel's expropriation of land in Jerusalem has given a big shock to the Arab and Islamic countries and provoked extreme denunciations. He said that this U.S. attitude contradicts previous official U.S. positions at the Security Council.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid stressed the need to back the Jerusalem issue on the grounds that the city is an integral part of the occupied Palestinian territories and must return to Arab sovereignty in line with relevant Security Council resolutions.

Regarding the Arab minisummit that will meet in Morocco, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid praised the rapid Arab response to hold this meeting. He said that the summit is necessary in light of the recent U.S. veto.

Egyptian, League Officials Assail U.S. UN Veto

MM1905134195 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 19 May 95 p 4

[Report by Muhammad 'Allam: "Open Attack On United States By Egypt And Arab League"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo — The Arab League and Egypt have openly criticized the United States for using the veto against the adoption of a Security Council resolution on Jerusalem.

An Egyptian official described Washington to AL-HAYAH as "sponsor of the Israeli peace process." He also said that "Madeleine Albright, U.S. representative in the United Nations, expressed not only a position biased toward Israel, but also a position challenging Arabs and Muslims." He wondered: "In whose interest is that defiance?"

The official added that the principle the United States is trying to consolidate through Albright, namely that the Security Council is not the right place for discussing Middle Eastern problems, "is rejected, unacceptable, and destroys any new world order based on stealing rights openly and in broad daylight." [sentence as published] He stressed that the U.S. position conflicts with its role as a neutral sponsor and with the foundations of the Madrid conference itself.

Asked what can be done vis-a-vis the U.S. veto, he said: "Whether or not an Arab summit is going to be held, Egypt will move toward Arab-Islamic coordination." However, he did not specify the aims and means of this move.

The source denounced the role played by the United States, linking the U.S. position, the Israeli nuclear program, and what happened at the Security Council vis-a-vis Jerusalem, saying that "this is unacceptable and unjustifiable, urging an Arab summit as soon as possible."

With regard to the Arab League, its diplomats have called for suspending Arab-Israeli negotiations in the Madrid process framework."if this process is the basis of the U.S. decision to move the dispute out the Security Council and to make the fate of peace dependent on the balances of power rather than international legitimacy." It was also noted that "the U.S. position was adopted after the New York nuclear conference."

Ambassador 'Adnan 'Imran, assistant secretary general of the Arab League, has criticized the U.S. Administration's use of the veto to prevent the Security Council from adopting a resolution on the lands confiscated by Israel in east Jerusalem. He told AL-HAYAH that the U.S. position "conflicts with its role in the peace process

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and defies international public opinion as reflected in the way the voting process was conducted in the United Nations."

He went on: "Failure to adopt a resolution through the Security Council, which is the quarter assigned to safeguard international peace and security, to urge Israel to revoke the confiscation decision and not to embark on it again is clear bias toward Israel and squanders Arab rights." He added: "The Arab states must reconsider their positions in order to confront the double standard policy pursued by the U.S. Administration at the Security Council."

He stressed that the U.S. veto will encourage Israel to continue its plan to Judaize Jerusalem and hit the peace process in its most vulnerable spot... The sponsor has become an adversary.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Speaks on Israeli Measures in Jerusalem

NC2105135495 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1230 GMT 21 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza, 21 May (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has emphasized that there will be no peace without a Palestinian peace and without Jerusalem. 'Arafat praised the Egyptian stance under President Mubarak's leadership and its backing for the Palestinian cause, particularly on Jerusalem. He also paid tribute to Arab and world states for their supportive position on Jerusalem, blaming the United States for its bias toward Israel and accusing Israel of always trying to evade its commitments in the peace process.

This came in an exclusive interview the Palestinian president gave today to a MENA correspondent in the Palestinian Authority areas, Salah 'Abd-al-Latif.

'Arafat opened the interview by replying to a question on current Arab efforts to reverse the Israeli measures in Jerusalem, the expropriation of lands. He said: For the first time since the Gulf crisis, we have succeeded in developing an Arab consensus to counter the Israeli measures in Jerusalem, because it is not merely a Palestinian issue, but an Arab, Islamic, and Christian issue. It is the first Qiblah and the third holy place, as well as the place the Prophet Muhammad, God's peace and prayers be on him, visited on his Night Journey and the place that cradled Christ, peace be on him.

'Arafat said that the Arab response was spectacular and swift and that it stemmed from the Arab officials' awareness of the significance, seriousness, and sensitivity of the issue of Jerusalem.

He added that by adopting its recent measures, Israel violated the agreements the two sides signed in Washington and Cairo under the sponsorship of U.S. President Bill Clinton and President Mubarak, respectively. These agreements were signed by the foreign ministers of the two sponsors of the peace process, he noted.

'Arafat said that Israel also violated previous resolutions by the UN Security Council, the UN General Assembly, and the 4th Geneva agreement. Moreover, he said, it is committing a blatant assault on the feelings of Palestinians, Arabs, Muslims, and Christians.

The Palestinian president talked about the efforts Egypt and the Arab nation are making to support the Palestinian position. He praised the Egyptian efforts led by President Mubarak and Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa to support the Palestinian position, particularly on Jerusalem.

He remarked that these efforts were the basic factor that contributed to the success of the recent Arab foreign ministers meeting in Cairo. He added that Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid must take a lot of credit for the success of that meeting, together with United Arab Emirates Foreign Minister Rashid al-'Abdallah. He also noted the efforts of the Moroccan prime minister, since Morocco chairs the Jerusalem Committee, as well as the Tunisian foreign minister, whose country chairs the current OAU session.

'Arafat told MENA's correspondent that the Arab stance evident during Cairo's last meeting was a noble one.

On behalf of the Palestinian people he addressed a message of appreciation to all the Arab officials who contributed to the success of that meeting, which came in the wake of the U.S. veto against a resolution passed by 14 votes.

'Arafat noted that, where the peace process is concerned, the United States bears a great and serious responsibility in using this veto, opposing international consensus on the issue, and favoring the Israeli violations, aggressions, and serious measures in Jerusalem.

Asked if this U.S. stand will affect Palestinian-U.S. relations, he said this depends on how the United States acts from now on after using the veto, and the effect this veto has on the peace process that it has sponsored with Russia. He noted that this sponsorship is taking place under President Bill Clinton and this gives the United States equal responsibilities towards both sides involved in the peace agreement. He said it does not have special responsibility toward one party at the expense of the other.

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Concerning his visit to Jordan which will begin on 23 May, 'Arafat said that the Jerusalem issue will be the major topic of discussion between him and King Husayn in addition to other serious Israeli violations and assaults, including confiscation of land, building settlements, or assaults on the al-Aqsa Mosque. He referred to a recent incident in which an extremist religious group broke into the al-Aqsa Mosque and prayed in it under the protection of Israeli police. He said this is a serious matter that cannot be condoned.

President 'Arafat remarked: I urge the whole world to shoulder its historical, national, and religious responsibility for what has happened.

'Arafat was asked to comment on ideas some Israelis promote that are far removed from the Declaration of Principles, like a state in Gaza or giving some areas in the West Bank to the Palestinian Authority [PA]. He said that Israel is trying to evade and shun its commitments in the Declaration of Principles. It is now the duty of the world community to shoulder its responsibilities toward Israel.

'Arafat said: Let it be known that there will be no peace without a Palestinian peace and that there will be no peace without Jerusalem. The Israelis and Americans must know that they cannot have peace and land at the same time. We went to Madrid on the initiative of former U.S. President George Bush, where we set the goal of land for peace, and on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which say that the Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem, are the lands that were occupied in 1967.

'Arafat was asked how optimistic he was about Israel's respect for the July 1 deadline for implementing the transitional phase of the Declaration of Principles on the redeployment of Israeli troops in the West Bank. He replied: The Israelis will try to sidestep that deadline as usual, using any of the excuses they are accustomed to using.

He added: So far, we have not settled what we agreed upon, whether the redeployment, the elections, the empowerment, the opening of crossing gates, the expansion of the area of Jericho, or opening the borders between us and both Egypt and Jordan. The Israelis are still putting up barriers that have no legal, ethical, or political grounds.

Asked whether the Palestinian establishments will be invited to meet to assess the outcome of the peace process, 'Arafat said that this is possible, noting that some organizations have already met or are resuming their meetings and that others will be invited to a meeting soon.

He added: We are a democratic people. Every decision we make emanates from the Palestinian people, who are represented by the PLO and its organizations.

Asked about his role in bringing about national unity among the Palestinian factions, 'Arafat said at the conclusion of his interview: We take pride in the fact that the unity of all the sectors of the Palestinian people is solid and strong. We cooperate with all the powers on the basis of what the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, has signed and what the Palestine National Council approved. All should commit themselves to that and respect that commitment.

In the meantime, he added, every one should view himself as a recruit in the ferocious battle we are fighting to protect Jerusalem and our sanctities in it.

Council of Ministers Discusses Jerusalem Issue

JN2005192795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1730 GMT 20 May 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Council of Ministers of the National Authority [NA], which held its weekly meeting at the Presidential Office in Gaza today under the chairmanship of President Yasir 'Arafat, has decided to follow up on the Jerusalem issue through the United Nations, the Arab mini-summit conference scheduled to be convened in Morocco, and the International Court of Justice if necessary.

The Council of Ministers devoted most of its time to discussing the Jerusalem issue and the impact of the U.S. veto at the Security Council in favor of Israel's confiscation of Palestinian lands in Jerusalem.

Following the meeting, Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation, said the U.S. veto has isolated the United States in the world. He hailed Arab support, as well as the French-announced European support during the Security Council's session against the confiscation of Palestinian lands in Jerusalem. The council described the European position as positive and strong.

Dr. Sha'th announced that the meetings of the Council of Ministers and the Jerusalem Committee, chaired by Faysal al-Husayni, the official in charge of the Jerusalem file, are considered open.

For his part, Housing Minister Dr. Zakariya al-Agha stressed that there are popular moves inside the homeland, particularly in Jerusalem, and that the Council of Ministers will make a comprehensive assessment of the situation.

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Dr. Sha'th pointed out that the council discussed several other topics, the foremost of which were the negotiations on civilian and economic issues, the safe crossing points issue, the results of negotiations on the redeployment of the Israeli occupation forces outside residential areas in the West Bank, and the legislative elections issue.

In this regard, Dr. Sha'th emphasized that the Council of Ministers feels that Israel is moving slowly regarding the redeployment and the elections issues. He added that this reflects Israel's refusal to finish all these negotiations by 15 June and to hold the elections after 1 July. He said that he who wants to meet his commitments should make proposals in line with the Declaration of Principles.

Dr. Sha'th asserted that Israel is being slow in this regard and that Israel's concept of the redeployment and major parts of the elections, particularly those pertaining to the role of the Palestinian residents of Jerusalem, is not in harmony with pledges to finish these negotiations before 1 July and hold the elections afterward.

The meeting also discussed the Israeli Government's delay of the first payment of 105 million shekels from the taxes Israel collects from Palestinians. The Council of Ministers also discussed the donor countries' delay of the payment of the amounts of money they pledged to the NA. Dr. Sha'th announced that he was asked to follow up on these two issues with the Israeli Council of Ministers and the donor countries in order to speed up payments.

The council also tackled the assessment made by the Palestinian pilgrimage team, as well as the problems that faced the pilgrims, stressing that steps will be taken in the future to prevent such problems.

Further on Ministers' Meeting

JN2105093895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0700 GMT 21 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Following its weekly meeting under President Yasir 'Arafat, the Council of Ministers of the Palestinian [National] Authority [PNA] has decided to follow up on the Jerusalem issue through the United Nations, to work to hold a mini-Arab summit, and to look into the possibility of resorting to the International Court of Justice.

Following the meeting, Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation, said that Israel is moving slowly regarding the implementation of the second phase of the Declaration of Principles [DOP] on redeployment and election issues.

Presidency Secretary General al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim said that the Council of Ministers paid special attention to the holy Jerusalem issue and the Palestinian, Arab, Islamic, and Christian moves to confront the Israeli attempts to Judaize Jerusalem and obliterate its features and identity.

President Yasir 'Arafat presented a detailed report on these moves and the Palestinian plan to confront the Israeli aggressions on all Palestinian, Arab, and international levels.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim said during the meeting, President Yasir 'Arafat emphasized that no one can relinquish Jerusalem or tolerate any gap in the holy Jerusalem issue. He also presented an Israeli map he received from reliable sources, which shows that Israel plans to determine the future of Jerusalem and to establish the temple on the rubble of al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock.

He said that Palestine's representative to the United Nations was entrusted with studying the possibility of holding an emergency UN General Assembly session, calling for another UN Security Council meeting under the slogan "Unity for the Sake of Peace," and of resorting to the International Court of Justice.

President Yasir 'Arafat briefed the PNA Council of Ministers on the current contacts with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak on Jerusalem.

The Council of Ministers discussed President Yasir 'Arafat's coming visit to Jordan, his meeting with Jordan's King Husayn, and the current contacts to hold a mini-Arab summit to discuss Israel's confiscation of Palestinian lands in Jerusalem.

The PNA Council of Ministers expressed support for the idea of calling for a meeting of the Arab Popular Forces Conference and an Islamic-Christian conference to support Jerusalem and the Palestinian rights in it.

The PNA Council of Ministers' statement said the U.S. UN Security Council veto against a draft resolution on the confiscation of lands in Jerusalem is biased, unjustified, shameful, prompts dissatisfaction, and cannot be accepted.

The Council emphasized the continuation of the work of the Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem. It listened to a report by Faysal al-Husayni, official in charge of the Jerusalem file, on the Steering Committee's meetings in Switzerland, and the Palestinian delegation's request to begin negotiations on Jerusalem and its final status, in addition to the continuation of the transitional stage talks.

The Council of Ministers discussed a report revealing the flagrant collusion of some Israeli forces, including

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officers in the Israeli Army, with those who claim to be religious and seek to disturb security and undermine stability in the PNA areas, particularly after the seizure of 1,500 Israeli indentity cards these sides have received from Israel along with original birth certificates and Israeli Interior Ministry seals in order to carry out activities that would give the Israeli Government pretexts and justifications to evade the implementation of the DOP.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim stressed that President Yasir 'Arafat has revealed that a group affiliated with some of the Damascus-based tools was arrested after arriving in the homeland to plan for explosions in Gaza and Jericho. The president praised the vigilance of the Palestinian security authorities which take care of the security of the citizens and the homeland.

The Council listened to a report by Dr. Nabil Sha'th, planning and international cooperation minister, on the meetings of the Higher Committee on negotiations. It also listened to another report by Local Government Minister Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat on the results of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on the holding of the Palestinian legislative elections.

The PNA Council of Ministers also discussed the next round of talks on the Israeli side's transfer of power to the PNA in the fields of work, insurance, fuel, trade, and communications.

PLO Seeks Speeded-Up Talks Amid Fury at Israel

NC2005170095 Paris AFP in English
1553 GMT 20 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, May 20 (AFP) — The Palestinian Authority on Saturday [20 May] discussed ways of speeding up the peace process with Israel amid fury at the Jewish state's confiscation of Arab land in Jerusalem, a senior official said.

Chief PLO negotiator Nabil Sha'th said the weekly meeting of the self-rule cabinet had ignored calls from some Palestinian officials to halt the peace talks with Israel.

"We have not discussed freezing the negotiations," said Sha'th.

"We discussed how to accelerate them in effect, he said, adding that the Jerusalem problem "casts a very dark shadow over the whole peace process."

Finance "minister" Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi said Friday the talks on extending Palestinian self-rule were "marginal and useless" adding "we should not continue them."

Sha'th told journalists after Saturday's meeting: "There is a clear feeling in the cabinet that Israel is not moving on the serious matters of redeployment and elections.

"One doubts that there is real goodwill to make sufficient progress to reach the July 1 deadline. This date should be a sacred date."

Both sides agreed to try to reach an accord by July 1 on implementing the next phase of self-rule including an Israeli redeployment on the West Bank and Palestinian elections to a self-rule council.

Al-Nashashibi told AFP after the meeting: "We want Israel to consider seriously talks on the final status of Jerusalem, borders, sovereignty and refugees because the discussion has been marginal so far."

He said the Palestinians had to insist on this. "If they (Israelis) refuse then we have to take our own decision," he added without elaborating.

Morocco's King Hassan II is to host a summit in Rabat to forge a common Arab stand on Israel's seizure of 53 hectares (131 acres) of mainly Arab land in annexed East Jerusalem.

An Arab League official told AFP that the mini-summit would probably be held May 27 and be attended by Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Syria and the PLO.

Sha'th said a senior Moroccan envoy was expected soon in the self-rule Gaza Strip to invite PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat to the summit which follows a US veto of a UN resolution on Israel's confiscation of the land.

Review of Peace Process Warned If 1 Jul Missed

NC2205090195 Paris AFP in English
0809 GMT 22 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, May 22 (AFP)—If Israel breaks a July 1 deadline for the second phase of autonomy and upholds Jerusalem land confiscations the PLO will review the entire peace process, a senior official warned Monday [22 May].

"Everything is tied to the July 1st deadline," said Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat's adviser.

Israel and the PLO have agreed a July 1 target date for an accord to redeploy the Israeli army on the West Bank and hold elections to an autonomy council.

"If the deadline is not met, and if by then Israel has not cancelled its expropriation orders, the Palestinian leadership will reassess the whole peace process," he told AFP.

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The warning came shortly before Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres was to meet 'Arafat in a bid to calm Arab anger over Israel's confiscation of Arab land in east Jerusalem.

Abu-Rudaynah said the PLO executive committee, the Palestinian National Council or parliament-in-exile and the mainstream Fatah faction's central committee would be the bodies entrusted with reassessing the situation.

He also said the PLO's executive committee was to meet in Tunis on June 1 to discuss the Jerusalem issue and Palestinian-Israeli relations.

"All of this comes as part of a series of measures to halt the confiscation of land in Jerusalem," he said.

Abu-Rudaynah also said 'Arafat was to travel Tuesday to meet with King Husayn in Amman ahead of talks in Cairo with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak on Wednesday.

The Arab world has been infuriated by the land confiscations and an Arab summit is expected to be held in Rabat, Morocco, on Saturday to raise the issue.

Al-Husayni Warns 'Total Intifadah' Could Break Out

NC2105100895 Paris AFP in English 0934 GMT 21 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem, May 21 (AFP)— The unofficial Palestinian minister for Jerusalem warned Sunday [21 May] that a "total intifadah" or uprising may break out over Israel's confiscation of Arab land in the holy city.

Faysal al-Husayni told AFP the Palestinians had had enough.

He said Israel, which seized 53 hectares (131 acres) in the city at the end of April, had now confiscated 34 percent of the land of east Jerusalem, which was annexed in 1967.

"We the Palestinians opened up the opportunity for Israel to be part of the Middle East," al-Husayni said referring to the 1993 autonomy agreement. "But Israel's behaviour does not support a new Middle East.

"People are angry in Arab countries and so are the Palestinians. And Palestinian leaders are depressed by all this," he said.

"If you put all these things together it shows there could be a total intifadah.

"No one can say that he will start an intifadah and no one can stop it," al-Husayni, alluding to a spontaneous outburst.

The Palestinian intifadah against Israeli occupation erupted spontaneously in Gaza Strip refugee camps in December 1987 and ended with the launch of autonomy on the Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho a year ago.

Israeli bullets accounted for 1,331 Palestinian lives during the uprising, according to an AFP toll. Palestinians killed 300 Israelis over the same period.

"We will fight (confiscation) by all legal means," added al-Husayni, who heads a PLO steering committee for multilateral peace talks.

"We went to the United Nations, we went to multilateral and bilateral talks, to a joint committee with the Israelis and we will go to the court."

Explains Remarks on New Intifadah

TA2105181895 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 21 May 95

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, official in charge of the Palestinian Authority's Jerusalem portfolio, by Hayim Yavin in the studio — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Yavin] Mr. al-Husayni, the Likud is demanding to put you on trial for your remarks. What were you trying to achieve with your threat to resume the intifadah?

[Al-Husayni] I did not make any threats. All I said was that whoever is looking at the situation in the Palestinian street can see that it is exactly the same as it was in 1986-87, on the eve of the outbreak of the intifadah.

[Yavin] Do you not realize that such comments, coming from you, have a catalytic effect and can actually encourage such a process?

[Al-Husayni] No, I do not think this is true. If such a process starts, nobody can claim to be the cause of it. More significantly, nobody will be able to stop it once it starts. What I said is that if we fail to show sensitivity to the issue of Jerusalem, this will be the result. We must do everything to prevent this, and my remarks were directed at the Israeli Administration in a bid to make it change its policy.

[Yavin] You must be aware of the fact that the expropriation of the 500 or so dunams is a fait accompli. Today, in fact, it was the supporters of the political process who particularly criticized your remarks: Sarid said it was stupid; Beilin said threats of violence do not contribute anything; and Minister Sne said that instead of issuing threats, you should focus on achieving progress in the peace process.

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[Al-Husayni] That is precisely what we are trying to do. Look, the problem is that the Palestinian public sees the Palestinian leadership wandering about in circles. In order to find a way out, we went to the liaison committee [two last words in English], the bilateral talks track, the committee headed by myself and Mr. Shahal, and the multilateral talks. Everywhere we went, we were told: Wrong address; look somewhere else. We went to the UN Security Council, and there, too, we did not find what we hoped to find. The Palestinian public sees its leadership wandering around from place to place without achieving anything, so it now finds itself in precisely the same situation as it was in 1987, with no ray of hope in sight. This is the danger. We want Israel to change its policy regarding the settlements and Jerusalem.

[Yavin] Are you satisfied with the answers you got from the prime minister or with the government's decision that there will be no more land expropriations for private purposes in Jerusalem?

[Al-Husayni] Look, this is all fine, but if the tractors come to work on land expropriated earlier, everything will go down the drain.

Fatah Secretary Warns of 'New Intifadah'

TA2205050095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 22 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The secretary of the PLO's Fatah in the West Bank says Palestinians are on the threshold of a new intifadah over Jerusalem. Marwan al-Barghuthi says that Israel needs to know that the Palestinians are capable of such an intifadah, which would eventually lead to the collapse of the peace process. Al-Barghuthi said violence would break out in the region. He also said that the Jerusalem Municipality does not represent the residents in the eastern part of the city and that the Palestinians will set up their own municipality.

'Arafat, Adviser Denounce Plan To Seize West Bank Lands

JN1905141895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli occupation authorities are preparing to confiscate hundreds of hectares of Palestinian lands in the occupied West Bank, according to the Israeli newspaper HA'ARETZ. The newspaper says that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has given the green light for the planned confiscation and that the lands will be used to build 130 km of roads to facilitate the movement of settlers. HA'ARETZ adds that among the most important roads are the ones that will encircle the cities of Janin and Ramallah.

President Yasir 'Arafat described the planned confiscation of lands as a new crime by the Israelis, and stressed that the plan violates the Fourth Geneva Convention and the Oslo agreement.

Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat, also commented on the plan, saying that Israel's decision to seize these lands to build roads was encouraged by the United States' use of its veto power at the UN Security Council regarding the confiscation of lands in Jerusalem. He asserted that the Israeli Army has no right to confiscate Palestinian lands or build roads without the consent of the Palestinian side and that there are no agreements in this reegard.

Abu-Rudaynah said he viewed the plan as a new violation and a new challenge to the peace process.

'Arafat's Adviser on Jerusalem, U.S. Veto

JN1905134595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1100 GMT 19 May 95

[Interview with Marwan Kanafani, adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, by 'Arif Salim on 18 May; place not given; from the "Today's Events" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Salim] Marwan Kanafani, President Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, good evening.

[Kanafani] Good evening.

[Salim] As expected and contrary to all logical calculations, what we feared has happened. Washington has crossed the red line on Jerusalem by vetoing the draft resolution calling on Israel to desist from expropriating land in Jerusalem.

[Kanafani] At a minimum, this U.S. stand is disturbing. It will further complicate the obstacles on the path of the peace process. It has harmed the credibility of the United States as a sponsor of the entire peace process. As I said this morning, this stand cannot be justified and cannot be explained to the Palestinian people except by saying that it is a hostile stand that contravenes even the most basic human rights that all peoples are supposed to enjoy and that the whole world should respect, especially a superpower like the United States which has promoted the negotiated solution, helped in the negotiations, endorsed the agreements, and has been working to muster international support for these agreements.

We must really wonder how the United States can do this if it is going to take such an unjustifiable position.

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[Salim] What form will the Palestinian, Arab, and Islamic response take in this situation?

[Kanafani] The Palestinian response is very clear and unambiguous. We will use every means and knock on every door in order to regain our rights and until an accurate and honest application of the peace agreement is made in accordance with the principles of our partnership, which calls for full Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Palestinian territory and the establishment of the Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

What difficulties are we facing? Which states opposed us? Is Israel sincere in implementing agreements? Does the international community intend to pressure Israel? All these are important questions. But this people will not abandon its endeavors to knock on every door and not to leave any avenue unexplored until we reach this goal.

[Salim] Especially now that it has transpired that the international community fully supports us. Fourteen states supported the resolution, which was only opposed by the United States. Will this justify the continuation of the push for the peace process? What effect will this U.S. stand have?

[Kanafani] Washington is now holding continuous contacts with the president and the Palestinian leadership, stating that this is not an objective stand, meaning that the United States's position is not against denouncing Israel on the expropriation issue but is a U.S. objection to the deviation from the framework within which we have agreed, namely, the direct Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. Of course, the Palestinian leadership's answer is clear; namely, that we resorted to this path after all other efforts have failed—both bilateral efforts and through the cosponsors of the conference, the friends, and regional bodies. All these have failed and therefore, the Palestinian side sought the help of the highest legitimate international authority; namely, the UN Security Council.

The U.S. logic that the objection is not against substance but against form is unacceptable and unjustifiable. As I told you, this will not stop us from continuing our demands and to seek our rights until we realize them.

[Salim] You know that Jerusalem has pan-Arab and Islamic dimensions. There is an Arab move in this regard. You also know that Jerusalem is a unifying factor for this nation and that this was confirmed in the Arab League Council's meeting.

What are your expectations on the possibility of holding an Arab mini-summit within this framework?

[Kanafani] As far as I know and without divulging any information, President 'Arafat received reassurances yesterday that the issue of holding an Arab mini-summit is moving in the right direction at an appropriate pace.

However, I would like to mention something regarding Jerusalem: The Jerusalem issue cannot be affected by the U.S. veto at the Security Council, the Israeli position, the settlement activity, or the expropriation of lands. This is because the Jerusalem issue lies deep in the conscience of millions of Palestinians, tens of millions of Arabs, and hundreds of millions of Muslims.

As you have said, Jerusalem is the red line. I wonder: How did the U.S. decisionmakers not consider this dimension? The veto poses a threat to U.S. relations and interests in the Arab and Islamic region. As has been said, this position is unjustifiable and cannot be explained. It also gives the Islamic and Arab world and the Palestinian people the right to wonder about U.S. credibility and about whether the United States is a neutral cosponsor.

The United States itself has made decisions and taken positions that are not only against the Palestinian-Israeli peace agreement, the subsequent agreements, and the agreements concluded between us and Israel and between the Arab states and Israel, but also against all international resolutions, agreements, and charters.

[Salim] Yes, especially since Washington gave us some hope when it cosponsored the Madrid conference and maintained the momentum of regional peace. The Palestinian people used to think that there was U.S. credibility in this regard. However, this decision has somewhat frustrated the Palestinians and Arabs.

Mr. Marwan, in your capacity as an adviser to the president, what is the impact of this U.S. decision on the president?

[Kanafani] You know that the president had prior information from Dr. Nasir [al-Qudwah] and our delegation in the United Nations that the United States might use the veto. A few hours before the vote, the president knew that the United States would use the veto, and he insisted on going ahead with the draft resolution regardless of the veto because, as is known by you and everyone else, this issue has no room for interpretation or negotiations.

Naturally, President 'Arafat is greatly disappointed by this veto and believes that the United States has made a decision that will not benefit the peace process, the Palestinians, or the other negotiating parties, and that it will inflict damage on all of us because it will consolidate the enemies of peace in Israel and give them the hope that, regardless of their actions and violations

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of the articles of the peace agreements, the United States will protect them even if the basis of the entire peace process is endangered.

[Salim] I think that following this U.S. veto Israel will continue to procrastinate about implementing the second part of the Declaration of Principles because Israel believes that it will be supported by the United States regarding such issues. Do you not believe so?

[Kanafani] Regrettably, I agree with you. This could lead to intransigent Israeli positions due to Israel's feeling that it is protected by a cosponsor. The least that can be said is that this is a regrettable matter.

[Salim] Yes, certainly. At the end of this interview, we thank you very much, Mr. Marwan, adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat.

[Kanafani] May God bless you. Thank you.

Further on Kanafani Remarks

JN1905194495 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1808 GMT 19 May 95

[Telephone interview with Marwan Kanafani, adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, in Gaza, by Salim Badawi in the studio, from "The Event" feature—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Badawi] Mr. Kanafani, the question now, following the U.S. veto, is how you will deal with the negotiations with Israel and with the United States, one of the cosponsors?

[Kanafani] Of course, an Arab summit and an Islamic summit are useful things and herald good tidings on the resumption of joint Arab action, which has suffered a severe setback since the Gulf war, as is well known. The question of Jerusalem is not just a Palestinian concern, although the Palestinian people and command are at the forefront of those defending Jerusalem as an Islamic and Christian city, and as a city with unique traits and which is a sensitive issue.

There is no doubt that the U.S. veto against the international resolution two days ago did not contribute to facilitating the peace process. On the contrary, it further obstructed it, and has caused indignation and raised questions for the Palestinian people about whether the United States has lost its credibility as an unbiased country mediating between the two sides to reach a negotiated solution.

I believe that the Palestinian command will not consider the U.S. veto on the Jerusalem issue as the end of the road. Neither will an Islamic or an Arab summit be the beginning of the road. This is a protracted problem. The Jerusalem issue is sensitive and of special interest to the Palestinian people. The Palestinian command will use to all methods and knock on all doors in pursuit of its struggle and efforts. You know that the Palestinian command has voluntarily opted for the peace process. It will pursue this process until we reach the end of the road; either this process proves to be the avenue for attaining the Palestinian people's legitimate rights as stipulated in the Declaration of Principles and the U.S. letter of assurances, or the Palestinian command will then address the Palestinian people and the Palestinian legislative authority to tell them that it has failed to reach a solution through negotiations.

[Badawi] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher justified the U.S. veto by saying it was used to protect the peace process.

[Kanafani] As you know, I said yesterday that the U.S. veto was unjustifiable and unexplainable. Naturally, there were explanations to the effect that it was the form, and not the content, that was objected to. Other justifications were that the veto was meant to forestall a decision on transferring the capital [sentence as heard].

Moreover, Secretary Christopher said the veto was used for the sake of the peace process on the grounds that the Israelis would have been upset if a resolution condemning them had been passed. All these are futile explanations for a clear political decision against both international legitimacy and the consensus in this regard.

If the United States thinks that it did not like the form of the draft resolution, then let us see things on the ground. In other words, let us see what the United States will do in order to resolve this problem that is now jeopardizing the entire peace process.

[Badawi] What is your opinion on what the Israelis are saying? The Israelis, particularly Shim'on Peres, believe that you made a mistake by going to the Arab League and the United Nations.

[Kanafani] First, you know that the Israelis are not the party that determines whether we made a mistake or not. We went to the United Nations and the Arab League after the failure of all efforts to resolve this issue bilaterally and through mediation and also after the failure of President 'Arafat's efforts to spur the feelings, emotions, and enthusiasm of various world ambassadors, including the ambassadors of the permanent Security Council member states.

We would not have gone to the Arab League and the Security Council if this issue had been resolved or if there were any possibility to resolve it with the Israelis. We see here daily that the Israelis have not yet resolved the issue of the crossings, and that they do not want to resolve the issue of people's movements.

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Moreover, blaming the Palestinian leadership in this respect is a desperate attempt to remove the renewed sense of guilt represented by the fact that only two states; namely the United States and Israel, are against the international consensus.

[Badawi] Marwan Kanafani, following the Shahal-al-Husayni meeting in Jerusalem this week, do you expect any compensation from Israel other than the few civilian powers offered to the National Authority?

[Kanafani] We do not like the word compensation because the Israelis cannot offer any. Regarding the issue of confiscations, we will not recognize any kind of decision, addition, omission, fencing, expansion, or establishment in the occupied Palestinian territories, even through we will be facing this issue alone. we will continue to view such actions as illegal and we will not recognize or approve any of them in any way. If Israel, as an occupying state, is determined to confiscate territories by military force to build settlements and houses, then the problem cannot be solved at the negotiating table. We are not seeking any compensation. Rather, we want a literal and honest application of the Palestinian-Israeli peace agreements. Now, the Palestinian people, as well as President 'Arafat, have recently begun to wonder: Is this the peace we have signed? In the view of the Palestinian people and many members of the Palestinian Authority, this is not the peace we signed. The peace that Shahal and others should recognize is the one that leads to the second stage of the Declaration of Principles, including the Israeli forces' redeployment, holding Palestinian elections, reaching the final stage, opening the crossing points, providing a safe passage, reducing Israel's presence in Gaza, opening roads for Palestinian products, putting an end to insulting the Palestinian people at certain moments, and securing people's free movement from and to Palestine. These are part of the agreement that was signed, not the idea of compensation, which is absolutely out of the question.

[Badawi] On a final note, do you think that a decision to suspend the confiscation of more land in Jerusalem could be considered a prelude that gives the impression of freezing the situation until negotiations on the final status of Jerusalem begins?

[Kanafani] One would hope so, God willing. However, looking at our experience with the Israelis, this is the tenth time they have told us that this is the last confiscation. Let us be clear, the term last confiscation was used by Rabin to get the approval of whatever is left of his ministry. In other words, it was not meant to be a pledge to the international community. He said he will stop for the sake of the other parties that are with him in the coalition and which are in favor of peace. This is like bait he gives them by telling them that this will be the last confiscation. The problem is that trust between the two sides is almost completely lost.

[Badawi] This is considering the fact that you are persistently demanding negotiations on the final status of Jerusalem prior to the scheduled date?

[Kanafani] As you know, this is attributed to brother Faysal al-Husayni and is not totally accurate. If Israel plans to cancel the final stage and its commitments in the interim stage before getting to the final stage, we believe that renegotiating the entire issue, including the final stage, remains a possible solution.

[Badawi] Marwan Kanafani. Thank you.

PA Justice Minister Interviewed on Jerusalem

NC2105081595 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 20 May 95

[Telephone interview with PA Justice Minister Furayh Abu-Middayn, in Jerusalem, by 'Abd-al-Mun'im Mabruk, in Cairo; date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Mabruk] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Ladies and Gentlemen, may God's peace and mercy be with you. Recent developments are indeed negative, as viewed by the world, particularly the Arab and Islamic regions. These negative developments are represented by an Israeli measure that harms the peace process to which Israel pledged its commitment with the Madrid conference. Israel has annexed over 53 hectares of Palestinian land in East Jerusalem as part of a big Israeli plan to Judaize the city, settle in and around it, and erase its Islamic landmarks, which are important for Christians and Muslims. In this telephone interview between Cairo and Jerusalem, we have with us Furayh Abu-Middayn, the justice minister in the Palestinian Authority [PA]. Good evening, Minister.

[Abu-Middayn] Good evening.

[Mabruk] What is the reaction of ordinary Palestinians and Israelis to this measure, which has angered the feelings of Muslims and Christians alike in the Arab region and the world?

[Abu-Middayn] Allow me to begin where you finish. Indeed, the recent Israeli measure is perhaps the first shot in a religious war in the region. This is the most serious aspect of Israel's decision. Israel wants to ignite a religious war in this region between the Jews and the Christians and Muslims. We have always avoided this; we have never wanted to have such an open religious war.

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Jerusalem is not only Palestinian, but is primarily Arab, Islamic, and Christian and concerns all religions. We say it concerns the three religions but each in its own area. Regarding East Jerusalem, which Israel is Judaizing—I wish this interview were being conducted on television or through the press—today we received a map showing a plan to demolish the al-Aqsa Mosque and replace it with the so-called Temple Mount, or 7,000-year-old temple, according to their claims, which are of course false.

[Mabruk] From where did the map now in your hands arrive?

[Abu-Middayn] From an israeli source. It clearly shows the efforts and plans to destroy the al-Aqsa Mosque and replace it with a Jewish temple. These are signs of a religious war. They are dangerous signs, which will drag the region, not only the Arabs and Muslims, but also the Christians, into a religious war. They have also tried to confiscate Christian land in the Cremisan Monastery but the pope intervened and they backed down because they do not want to open an Islamic-Christian front at the same time. But Rabin wants to ignite the region because he does not have the desire to carry on with peace. The Palestinian cabinet met today. We will act now, and on the Arab popular level everywhere. The Arab states' positions are clear. Big sister Egypt is leading the drive, whether through the Foreign Ministry or through Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, to mobilize Arab and Islamic resources behind the Jerusalem issue, because it is a central issue for Arab and Islamic issues. On this basis we are telling Israel: No peace without Jerusalem; no peace without an Arab, Islamic, and Christian Jerusalem. This is the formula on the basis of which peace will or will not exist in the region.

[Mabruk] Is the disappointing Israeli decision annexing East Jerusalem land in line with Israel's antipeace intentions, its contravention of international law, and its opposition to restoring legitimate rights to its owners? Is this decision in harmony with an Israeli undercurrent or are there Israeli undercurrents opposed to the Israeli undercurrent opposed to real peace, stability, and security in the region?

[Abu-Middayn] Certainly, there is an undercurrent in the Israeli people that desires peace. But it is a marginal undercurrent. Even those who participate in the Israeli Government, such as the Meretz movement, have become mere rubber stamps; they are not effective partners in Israeli policy. Rabin has another shadow government of military men. You may remember that during the Algerian liberation war, groups of French settlers cooperated with strong elements in the army and tried to assassinate de Gaulle. Things here are different. Rabin is not de Gaulle. He is cooperating with some military men. Recently we exposed how—I do not want to accuse them now—they participated in facilitating operations that they used as an excuse to destroy the peace process. In recent events they were involved in acts, such as smuggling explosives, weapons, and identity cards [into the Gaza Strip]. This is not a topic for discussion now. But the fact is that the peace movement in Israel is marginal and has shrunk a lot. The right is advancing. So Rabin has started the battle for Jerusalem to end it in the year of elections in an unguarded moment by the world. He believes the United States is the be-all and end-all. The United States is preoccupied with a struggle between the Democrats and Republicans in the upcoming elections. Rabin will also have elections. He is watching his popularity daily. So he thinks he will grab Jerusalem this year, close its file once and for all, and let the Muslims, Arabs, and Palestinians drink seawater. This is what Rabin thinks.

[Mabruk] Is this why Rabin said the Jerusalem issue is postponed? Is this why they have postponed the negotiations to 1996?

[Abu-Middayn] Certainly. He does not want to open the Jerusalem file, but close it in favor of the Zionist side to the issue. Rabin wants to be recorded in history as Israel's prophet who wrested Jerusalem from the Arabs and Muslims after thousands of years.

[Mabruk] Furayh Abu-Middayn, minister of justice with the PA: I think the Israeli measures, the U.S. veto in support of Israel's position, and before that the exclusion of Israel from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] all conflict with justice and the principles of international law.

[Abu-Middayn] Certainly. You know what happened at the United Nations last month? The United States drove the whole world, 170 countries, forcefully and against their will, to sign the NPT. Israel was not mentioned by name; the reference was made to the Middle East.

The recent veto only reveals the reality; it does not create one. That is, it is nothing new, but shows the situation as it stands. All laws drafted after World War II to serve the two sides of the equation at that time, the United States and the Soviet Union, collapsed. The United States is today employing them... [pauses] The death certificate for the whole United Nations was issued last week. Here lies the danger of the laws that have been passed and the power the United States enjoys.

The veto revealed that there is an U.S.-Israeli alliance to impose hegemony on the region. The new Middle

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East, about which Shim'on Peres is talking with his false romanticism, cannot be accepted in the Arab world. This is what brother Minister 'Amr Musa told Peres in the presence of Warren Christopher. He told him: There is an Arab world of 250 million people. You cannot shape the new Middle East in your own way; it will be shaped the way the Arabs and Muslims want.

So Israel today wants to lean on America to shape the region and control and dominate oil sources and Arab capabilities. We say: The Arabs must wake up, forget the Gulf war, and reconcile among themselves before they reconcile with their enemies. This is the only opportunity for us to gather around a single goal. Believe me, if Israel realizes its dreams in Palestine, the Arab world will not be safe from it, certainly not the neighboring countries, from Baghdad in the east to Cairo in the west.

Jerusalem will be the key to war and peace. If some people forsake Jerusalem, the Palestinian, Arab, and Muslim masses everywhere will not forsake it. It will continue to inflame hatred and wars and the Arabs and Muslims will continue to view Israel as a principal enemy for 50 or 60 years to come. This is what we are telling the Arab people everywhere: Wake up. The only power the Arabs enjoy today is to refrain from normalization with Israel. This has been the policy of the Egyptian people over the past 16 years. They boycotted Israel. They rejected cheap Israeli eggs and bananas and singers refused to sing in Israel. Statements issued by the al-Azhar imam and Pope Shanudah provide a model for the Arab world on how to curb Israel and prevent it from infiltrating the Arab world except through the gate of a just peace.

[Mabruk] What do you want from an Arab summit that will be held in the next few days to discuss Jerusalem? There is an Arab initiative in this regard, and there is an Egyptian reaction to Israel's new confiscation of land in East Jerusalem. President Mubarak, in his first reaction to the U.S. veto of a Security Council draft resolution, stressed that the annexation of Palestinian land in occupied East Jerusalem is null and void, and he said that the U.S. veto against this just Arab cause could harm the peace process and stability. There is an Arab summit, and everyone is attaching hopes to it. What do the Palestinians hope and want from this summit?

[Abu-Middayn] Yes. President Mubarak recognized an established fact: Danger exists; it is not merely expected. But as to what the Palestinians and Arabs everywhere expect from the summit, they expect the Arabs to be up to the responsibility and to join forces with the mentality we have heard voiced by brother 'Amr Musa and the brothers in Jordan, Syria, and all the Arab world. We expect the Arabs to display solidarity and prevent Israel's infiltration of the Arab world. The Jewish and Israeli people in particular will not sense the danger of what is happening unless they know that the gate of the Arab world is closed to them, and that it will not be opened before the Palestinian people attain their rights. The Arabs, at the summit, are required to shoulder this responsibility and adopt the position we heard from Egypt and the others. This will produce a resounding voice, because in this issue the Arab peoples are standing behind their governments and leaders and behind all those who say that Jerusalem is the cause of all Arabs and Muslims.

[Mabruk] Before we conclude this fine dialogue with Your Excellency, we hope to learn the results of the PA meeting chaired by Yasir 'Arafat and the decisions you made concerning contacts with influential world powers, especially Europe, to confront the recent Israeli measure.

[Abu-Middayn] There was only one point on the agenda—Jerusalem. We are thinking of taking the issue to the UN General Assembly after the Security Council, and to the International Court of Justice. We will probably do this at the beginning of the week. President 'Arafat may soon visit Egypt and Jordan to coordinate positions. We have a standing committee to follow up on the Jerusalem issue and the latest relevant developments. There will also be popular moves to mobilize resources in Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza, even if this calls for a new intifadah, no matter what impact this will have. But today we focussed on Jerusalem and on seeking recourse at the International Court of Justice and the United Nations again to (word indistinct) the U.S. role. But we still believe the Arab people are the force that can tip the balance in favor of the Palestinian cause and the cause of Jerusalem. So we have concentrated on how to create mechanisms for cooperation and coordination with the Arab and Islamic world and on how to activate the special European role. I believe the battle for Jerusalem has started and will not end before a decisive solution is reached: either the destruction of the peace process or Israel understanding that the Arab world is not the corpse it thinks it is. It is one thing or the other, and the results will appear in the next few weeks.

[Mabruk] Thank you, Furayh Abu-Middayn, minister of justice with the PA.

[Abu-Middayn] Thank you.

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'Urayqat Views Jerusalem, U.S. Veto, Arab Summit

NC2005093095 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 20 May 95

[Interview with Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government in the Palestinian Authority, in Jerusalem, by Ramadan Husayn in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Husayn] Can you tell us about the Palestinian position on recent developments concerning Jerusalem and the events at the UN Security Council?

['Urayqat] Basically, the Palestinian position is not just concerned about the expropriation of 53 hectares, one here and one there. The issue has to do with the significance of Jerusalem. As you know, the agreement the Israeli Government signed stipulates that talks on the final status of Jerusalem will start in early 1996 at the latest. Israel is unilaterally creating a new situation by expropriating land and building settlements. It is making the issue non-negotiable one way or the other.

The UN Security Council is the natural place to discuss this issue. Israel is clearly violating international laws, the UN Charter, and the 4th Geneva agreement of 1949.

Unfortunately, although the United States claims to foster the peace process, the world can see that it backs and encourages Israel to violate international resolutions. Israeli injustice—as represented by the confiscation of land owned by the sons of our Palestinian people—completely disregards not only the Arab nation's feelings and rights, but those of the entire world. The United States decided to cover up the Israeli violations and aggression regardless of the Arab positions and rights, at the same time defying the entire world, above all Europe and the other UN members.

On the other hand, the United States claims the Palestinians and Israel must discuss this matter bilaterally. It is fully aware that Israel has insisted that the matter be discussed in the final phase of negotiations. How can we discuss the matter bilaterally when Israel insists on deferring it until the final phase while in the meantime it makes decisions and takes such measures as building settlements and expropriating land? This [words indistinct] the final status of Jerusalem by all means possible.

As a result of the handling of the UN Security Council resolution, the peace process no has no real sponsor, whether we like it or not. As you know, the Soviet Union, which acted as a cosponsor, has collapsed. And now this development has discredited any U.S. claim to sponsor the peace process. Let us call a spade a spade. There is a serious attempt by the Arab League to hold a summit meeting—the first of its kind—to surmount the collapse experienced in Arab political and diplomatic corridors since the Gulf war. We hope these U.S. stances at the UN Security Council and these U.S. decisions and biases will give us the shock we Arabs need in order to face facts. The question is: Will we continue to be influenced by events without being able to influence them? What are we, as an Arab nation, going to do to defend our rights and existence?

Big hopes are being pinned on the Arab minisummit in Morocco.

[Husayn] Israel has overtly rejected a Palestinian proposal to begin immediate talks on the future status of Jerusalem. What about this?

['Urayqat] This is what I really meant when I said that we insist on putting the issue of Jerusalem and its various aspects on the negotiation table at once. The Israeli side is taking tangible measures that affect the final status of the city. Instead of negotiating on the issue, they resolve it by building settlements and by introducing demographic, historical, and religious changes in this holy city.

When we went to the UN Security Council the United States said that this was a bilateral issue. Israel says that the matter is non-negotiable. With this Israeli rejection, the entire peace process faces this question: Has the peace process reached an end? Someone might ask why negotiations should continue between the Palestinian and Israeli sides. Let us be frank. According to the timetable, 15 June is the deadline for a transitional agreement. We Palestinians doubt that we can reach such an agreement. So for the next 20 days we want to be careful, if negotiations do stop, not give the Israeli side any excuse to say that if the Palestinians had continued negotiating we would have reached agreement. This has been their custom for the past four decades. The issue is very clear. It does not concern the ongoing negotiations here and there, but the peace process in its entirety.

The question that faces all Arabs taking part in bilaterals and multilaterals is: Is Israel in effect seeking peace in order to get what it wants without paying the price? Peace is costly; it has a price. As Arabs, we fulfilled our side of the bargain for achieving peace. But it seems that the Israelis continue to want complete Arab capitulation in solving the problems that concern them without paying anything for peace. The objective of bilateral and multilateral talks is clear. Bilateral talks are used to make Israel pay our price by withdrawing from the lands it occupied in 1967. The multilaterals are the right place for broadening the scope of regional

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cooperation, in which Israel figures as one of the Middle East states.

There is a major imbalance due to the lack of coordination in the Arab arena. Our differences were very deep [words indistinct] peace process. It is high time to reunite the Arab family and clarify matters, not with slogans about fraternal ties but by acting according to our interests and talking seriously about ways to emerge from this ordeal.

A while ago we noticed that the United States had introduced Israel to membership in the nuclear club without anything in return. The Arab Republic of Egypt and the Egyptian diplomatic corps has led a magnificent campaign to free the Middle East of nuclear weapons. It made strenuous efforts and tested Israel before the entire world. But the United States has put Israel above the law and let it into the nuclear club, even though it is aware that Israel's continued possession of such a huge amount of weapons would open the door to a nuclear arms race in the Middle East.

The veto was used to cover up for new Israeli crimes. Hence, the peace process now has no sponsor. The ball is truly in the court of us, the Arab nation. We have to develop a comprehensive strategy to make us either people who are affected by events, which is unfortunate. [sentence as heard] But I believe that we have the ability to influence incidents as much as we are influenced by them.

Islamic Jihad Vows To Strike in Jerusalem

NC2005175795 Paris AFP in English 1752 GMT 20 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem, May 20 (AFP) — The armed Palestinian group the Islamic Jihad on Saturday [20 May] vowed to launch attacks inside Jerusalem to hit back at Israel's confiscation of Arab lands in the annexed eastern sector.

"The Islamic Jihad movement will retaliate against the confiscation of our lands by the Zionists and to the US veto by escalating its armed struggle in occupied Palestine and in Jerusalem," the group said in a statement sent to AFP in Jerusalem.

The United States on Wednesday used its power of veto to scupper a draft UN Security Council resolution denouncing Israel's confiscation of lands in East Jerusalem to build homes for Jews.

The Islamic Jihad called on Arabs to end the US-sponsored peace process, and said any Arab countries with ties to Israel should be barred from an Arab summit on the issue to be held on May 27.

"A serious summit would gather the countries which refuse hegemony and normalisation with the enemy and exclude the middlemen. It would start by halting participation in the US-Israeli peace comedy," the group said.

Islamic Jihad Leader Denies Contacts With 'Arafat Group

NC2105185795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1750 GMT 21 May 95

[Telephone interview with Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad in Palestine Movement, by Jihad al-'Idan; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-'Idan] Dr. al-Shaqaqi: Reports tell of contacts between the Islamic Jihad and the Oslo group. Could you tell the listeners about this issue?

[Al-Shaqaqi] In the name of God the compassionate, the merciful. I confirm that there are no contacts between the Islamic Jihad and the Oslo or 'Arafat group. After the Kefar Darom operation [in Gaza] carried out by the Islamic Jihad, in which seven Israeli soldiers were killed, sweeping arrests and house- storming operations followed. Following this campaign, some field meetings between brothers in the Islamic Jihad and some leaders from Fatah, and not from the 'Arafat group, were held to clear the atmosphere and defuse tension in the area. It was not a political dialogue at all and did not involve any political questions but dealt with field and practical issues to avert internal fighting. These meetings did not result in any agreement affecting the Islamic Jihad's principles that call for continued jihad in every part of Palestine under Zionist occupation, including Gaza. When the [Palestinian] Authority started to leak rumors about agreements, the Islamic Jihad decided about a month ago to end the talks for good. This means that even the field talks have been terminated. As for the political talks, they have never taken place. Once again we emphasize that there is no political or other dialogue between us. Personally, I have never met with 'Arafat in my life and I can never meet with someone who signed the Oslo Agreement and who sold Jerusalem. This is our position; our jihad is firm and will continue, as we emphasize in all our statements, including the statement issued yesterday in Gaza, which denounced the land expropriation, the U.S. veto, and the self-rule authority, which sold Jerusalem in return for an imaginary authority, as outlined in the Islamic Jihad statement distributed in Gaza yesterday.

[Al-'Idan] Thank you Dr. al-Shaqaqi.

[Al-Shaqaqi] You are welcome.

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Child Murdered After Father Quits Islamic Jihad

TA2005182995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 20 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Three-year-old Wafa' Abu-Hizrah was stabbed to death in Khan Yunus because her father renounced the Islamic Jihad and joined the Palestinian security service. Palestinian sources told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the child's body was found in a Khan Yunus garbage dump tonight. The child was abducted from her home in Gaza three days ago.

One of 'Most Dangerous' Hamas Military Men Arrested

TA2005124495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 20 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The special Gaza military tribunal has sentenced three more Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists from Rafah to six months in jail. They were found guilty of aiding the military arm of Hamas.

Hamas sources say Palestinian security services have arrested Usamah Abu-Taha and Yusuf al-Malih, two wanted men who carried out attacks against Israelis. Abu-Taha is considered one of the most dangerous men of the Hamas military wing.

Villagers Protest Israeli Land Grab

NC2005172895 Paris AFP in English 1352 GMT 20 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem, May 20 (AFP) — Hundreds of Palestinian villagers protested Saturday [20 May] against Israel's seizure of their lands in Arab East Jerusalem.

The villagers from Bayt Safafa, which is part of the Greater Jerusalem municipality, were joined by Palestinians from East Jerusalem and Israeli pacifists from the Gush Shalom peace bloc.

The protest was held on some of the 34 hectares (84 acres) of agricultural land next to the village which Israel plans to confiscate to build homes for Jews and a motorway.

They are among the 53 hectares (131 acres) of mainly Arab lands which Israel has said it will seize in the largest land grab by the Jewish state in 15 years, one of the rally organisers Muhammad Jadallah told AFP.

"Israel must annul its decision" and "No to the American veto" the demonstrators chanted.

The United States used its UN veto Wednesday for the first time in five years to block a resolution backed by Europe, China and Arab nations calling on Israel to cancel land expropriations in East Jerusalem.

A leaflet distributed by Gush Shalom said that it was "ashamed of the daylight robbery carried out by our government which says it wants peace.

"It is a provocation aimed at preventing peace with the Palestinian people."

Leading Palestinian Figure Barred From Gaza, Israel

NC2005180895 Paris AFP in English 1727 GMT 20 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, May 20 (AFP) — A former senior PLO official and a leading Palestinian poet said Saturday [20 May] he had been barred by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin from visiting Israel and the self-rule Gaza Strip.

Mahmud Darwish, who arrived in Cairo last week from his home in Paris, told AFP that Rabin has turned down requests made on his behalf by Israeli Communication and Arts Minister Shulamit Aloni and PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat.

Rabin had said he was a "troublemaker hostile to the peace process," Darwish explained, adding steps were still going on to obtain permission. He is due to leave Egypt on Wednesday.

The poet resigned from the PLO's executive committee in 1993 in protest at the accords with Israel which paved the way for the launch of self-rule a year ago.

Darwish, 53, was born in Barwah, near Acre, in northern Israel. "The village doesn't exist anymore, a kibbutz (collective farm) has been built there," he said.

He added he had not been surprised that Washington had vetoed a UN resolution condemning Israel's confiscation of mainly Arab lands in annexed East Jerusalem.

But said he had been "stunned" at Washington's "humiliation" of Europe and the international community, referring mainly to France and Britain which had backed a draft resolution on the issue.

Adviser Previews 'Arafat's Upcoming Visit to Jordan

JN2105081595 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 21 May 95 p 1

[Report by Kamal Zakarinah]

[FBIS Translated Text] Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, media adviser to Palestinian National Authority Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, has said that President Yasir 'Arafat will visit

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Jordan on Tuesday [23 May] to meet with His Majesty King Husayn to follow up the latest developments of the peace process and the obstacles facing it. They will also discuss ways to render successful the forthcoming Arab summit, which is expected to be held in Morocco before the end of this month, he added.

In a telephone contact with AL-DUSTUR from Gaza, Abu-Rudaynah added that this visit is a continuation of the distinguished and fraternal relations between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples. He noted that it was agreed in the previous meeting between His Majesty King Husayn and President Yasir 'Arafat to continue holding meetings and consultations in the interest of the two peoples and the Palestine question.

He said: Meetings between the two leaders always have a special flavor. The agenda of this meeting will include issues of interest to the two fraternal peoples and, particularly, the latest developments of the Palestine question and the Israeli authorities' confiscation of land in the city of Jerusalem. Much has been achieved recently in economic cooperation and cooperation in other areas. Jordanian-Palestinian joint committees will continue to convene in order to upgrade and boost the distinguished relations between Jordan and Israel.

Abu-Rudaynah paid tribute to the clear Jordanian support for Palestinian rights, as was shown in the Arab League meetings, and the prompt Jordanian readiness to attend the forthcoming Arab summit.

He noted: We expect this visit to achieve great success in preserving the historical and distinguished relations between the two peoples and the two leaders.

Paper Condemns U.S. Use of Veto

MM1905154195 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 19 May 95 p 11

[Editorial: "Most Important U.S. Veto"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The United States' use of the veto at the UN Security Council against a draft resolution urging Israel to revoke its decision to confiscate Arab lands in occupied Jerusalem is the biggest blow it could deal to its allies in the region, who wrongly thought that it could become a fair arbiter in the Arab-Israeli conflict. It seems that this veto, the first in five years, was necessary in order to wake up some Arabs, whom the second Gulf war caused to forget many of the political constants, most notably the full U.S. bias toward Israel and U.S. support of Israel in all its aggressive and expansionist positions, regardless of their violation of international agreements and treaties.

It is difficult for us to see any fruitful future for the peace process in the Middle East following this provocative U.S. position toward all Arabs and the other Muslim states. The process is already dying, if it nas not died already, as a result of the continued Israeli policy of nibbling at Arab lands and expanding the settlements.

If the U.S. Administration, the main sponsor of the process, is blessing and protecting these excesses, it is futile to seek help from anyone else. We would be adding nothing new if we said that the United States fully controls the UN Security Council and all its resolutions. But it is necessary to confirm this fact in practice from time to time through draft resolutions such as the recent one, so that the world as a whole can see how the new world order — which Washington is leading and trying to impose on the world — revolves primarily around Israeli interests. This is the first time in U.S. history that presidential candidates have been competing in a degrading manner to win the Zionist lobby's approval, espouse Israeli expansionist ambitions, and perpetuate its usurpation of Arab territories — which has aroused the fears of the Israelis themselves at this rush and its adverse effect on them in the future.

The Arabs have gained a great deal as a result of their decision to turn to the Security Council and their insistence on the draft resolution in question, taking no notice of the U.S. veto. By doing so they have not only embarrassed Washington, but also succeeded in causing a crack in its alliance with the other Western states, especially Britain and France, which voted in favor of the resolution and did not abstain from voting as was the case in the past.

Israel has gobbled up all Palestine. Skinning the slaughtered Palestinian sheep will not harm it. And the confiscation of 151 acres of Jerusalem's land will not add much to Arab losses. But it will certainly inflict a great harm on the Hebrew state and the Arab states that wagered on the benefit of peace and normalization with it.

There was a hysterical state of normalization with Israel before the confiscation of these lands. Israeli officials started to move freely in the streets of Arab capitals as though peace had been established and Arab rights restored to those entitled to those rights. But what the Israeli officials who took the greedy and immoral confiscation decision do not realize is that they have wasted a golden opportunity to coexist and establish normal relations with the states of the region. Because Jerusalem is a red line over whose importance both the peoples and the regimes agree.

In brief, it can be said that the U.S.-Israeli alliance is the loser as a result of this veto. As for the Arabs, they gained a great deal when they proved they are not a dead body and that they still have some dignity.

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Palestinians Postpone Transfer of Powers Talks

TA1905163595 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 May 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] It has been decided to postpone talks between Israel and the Palestinians over the transfer of powers from 21 May to 29 May. This decision was made at the request of the Palestinian side, which cited technical reasons. The talks on the transfer of five powers to the Palestinians were expected to resume on Sunday in Cairo. This has been reported by correspondent Hasan Abu-Zayid.

Israel's Shohat, PA's Quray' Discuss Economic Issues

TA2105164695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 21 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] [Israeli] Finance Minister Avraham Shohat this afternoon met Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'], the chief economic Palestinian official, in Jerusalem. Afterwards, Shohat said he hoped the current economic problems with the Palestinian Authority [PA] would be solved shortly, and Abu-'Ala' said he wished to reopen the Paris accords, because they were not operating properly. Harley Braidman reports:

[Begin recording] [Braidman] Finance Minister Shohat said that within two weeks, legislation will be completed enabling the transfer of 100 million shekels to the PA. Sixty million shekels would come from the payments of Arabs living in Judaea and Samaria working in Israel, and 40 million shekels from VAT [Value Added Tax] payments made by Arabs in the territories to the Israeli authorities. The Palestinians are, however, disputing this figure.

Shohat also said various subcommittees had been formed to deal with current problems in the economic field. The problem with the containers at Ashdod port had been solved, Shohat added.

Abu-'Ala' called for changes in the Paris accords in order to solve current problems on the ground.

[Quray'] This is just only to have things run smoothly, because by experience, after a year, there are serious issues that should be reconsidered.

[Braidman] He said the donor countries were making a special effort to transfer funds to the Authority and, despite the current difficulties, he was optimistic. [end recording] [passage omitted]

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Algeria

Foreign Minister on Arab Summit, U.S. UN Veto

NC2205070295 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 22 May 95

[Telephone interview with Foreign Affairs Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri, in Algiers, by Shihatah Abu-al-Majd, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Abu-al-Majd] Minister, good morning and welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Dembri] Good morning.

[Abu-al-Majd] Minister, the mini Arab summit convening to discuss the Arab stance on the Jerusalem issue comes amid particular circumstances and challenges that are facing the Arab nation. What is the Algerian stance on this issue and how does Algeria view the Arab summit in Morocco in a few days?

[Dembri] We have been waiting for this initiative and we, of course, welcome it. The time has come for discussions among the brothers in the Arab world so that we can adopt a united Arab stance on developments. Actually, the Algerian stance is known. We support Palestine; we remain supportive of the Palestinian brothers irrespective of the circumstances. We are now ready to take part in the Rabat summit.

[Abu-al-Majd] Minister, what are the Algerian proposals to preserve Jerusalem before Israel gobbles it up and imposes a fait accompli on the Arabs?

[Dembri] All of this stems from our old stances—that Jerusalem should be the capital of independent Palestine. We have some proposals we cannot discuss today over the telephone but we will present them during the meeting.

[Abu-al-Majd] What is the nature of Algerian coordination with the rest of the Arab brothers with regard to the peace process in general and the Jerusalem issue in particular?

[Dembri] Actually, since the start, September 1993, we have been proposing that we should always encourage the peace course. But to achieve all the Arab goals. We still follow the same stance.

[Abu-al-Majd] When Israel claims that the Jerusalem issue is an internal issue and should be discussed at the negotiating table between the Palestinians and the Israelis, what is the Algerian and Arab response to this statement?

[Dembri] The important thing is our joint Arab stance. For us, Jerusalem is the capital of Palestine and there can be no discussion of this principle and request.

[Abu-al-Majd] Minister, some claim that one of the most important reasons giving Israel the chance to gobble up Jerusalem is an Arab stance that, lately, has not been as united as it should be. Some claim the Arab summit is one of the pillars of Arab solidarity against these Israeli stances. How do you view these statements or how do you analyze them?

[Dembri] For us, the joint Arab stance is defined through Arab consultation, not with respect to Israeli stances. But before anything else we must consider what the Palestinian wishes are, what Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan want. After pinpointing all these wishes, we can then hold discussions and adopt a joint stance. The Arab negotiating ability has always been lacking, particularly when there have been no discussions among the Arab sides.

[Abu-al-Majd] Algerian Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri, the United States used the veto against 14 countries in the Security Council, against the Arab and Islamic countries, and against the feelings of believers in Jerusalem, both Muslim and Christian. What is the Algerian stance on this U.S. veto?

[Dembri] We were extremely surprised by this stance, because it again highlights the strategic alliance between Israel and the United States. As Arabs, we need to consider that stance so as to define our own joint position.

[Abu-al-Majd] In our dialogue with you, we need to set our minds at ease about fraternal Algeria in light of what is now called the wave of terrorism. Could you set our minds at ease about the situation in Algeria?

[Dembri] The situation in Algeria is improving. We are now accomplishing the political plan. This is shown in organizing presidential elections before the end of this year. I believe that regardless of the difficulties the popular will is now being mobilized to find a way out of all the various crises so that Algeria can survive. We now have a vital economy that is moving ahead. There are other issues, such as violence and terrorism, which will stop soon, God willing.

[Abu-al-Majd] Dear Arab listeners, at the end of this dialogue, we thank you and thank Algerian Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri, who was talking to us on the phone line between Cairo and Algiers.

Zeroual Invited to Arab Summit in Morocco

LD2005125195 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 20 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Head of state Liamine Zeroual received this morning at the presidency Abdelhadi

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Boutaleb, adviser and private envoy of Moroccan King Hassan II.

The talks dealt with the proposal to hold a Arab mini-summit in Morocco, to which head of state Liamine Zeroual was invited to take part in. [passage omitted]

Zeroual Invited to OAU Summit in Addis Ababa

LD2005225495 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 20 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Affairs Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri today received Toga Chanka Teshome, Ethiopian ambassador to Egypt and personal envoy of Ethiopian President Zenawi Meles.

The statement of the Foreign Ministry explained that the Ethiopian envoy conveyed to Mr. Dembri an invitation addressed to Head of State Liamine Zeroual to take part in the 31st session of the OAU heads of state and governments, scheduled to take place from the 26 to 28 June in Addis Ababa.

Army Said Resolved To 'Crush' Criminal Gangs

LD1805211095 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In the latest issue of the Army magazine EL-DJEICH, the lead story entitled: "The Caravan Proceeds" says that Algeria, like many states, has opened the door of multiplicity and freedom of expression so that every citizen can participate in the development of his homeland, but in the midst of this significant change parasites have come to the surface. Parasites that want to divert the locomotive to the direction they want to serve their own current interests and the interests of their masters outside the homeland, without any consideration for the nation's interests or the destiny of the people who have been plunged into a pool of blood thanks to them.

The article adds that such action can result only in hatred, which these hearts harbor for Algeria — entity and people. However, the people have not been taken in by this trick. The people are aware of the dangers of the conspiracy and have come out in processions throughout the homeland condemning and denouncing the criminal methods of these turncoats who permit the spilling of the blood of children and youth. The magazine says that it goes without saying that the People's National Army finds itself, like other patriotic forces in the country, in confrontation with this type of flagrant challenge which is being imposed by the criminal elements on the nation. The Army has pledged to purge the country of the evil elements and to restore it to normal life in which the people's word is the only one to be heard with regard to self-determination, defining its aims, and choosing its men. The Army will continue to pursue these elements until it removes their sting; in this it is committed to the principles and values of the martyrs.

The magazine concludes its article by saying that it is enevitable to counter the war declared against the Algerian people with a war by the protectors of the homeland who have exposed the methods of action of the criminal gangs. The protectors of the homeland are resolved to abort and crush these methods for good.

Security Services Kill 35 'Terrorists'

LD2005222895 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 20 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The security services announced today that their forces killed 35 terrorists in various operations conducted since Tuesday [16 May] in the provinces of Algiers, Blida, Oran, Tebessa, Constantine, Relizane, Jijel, Mostaganem, Setif and Batna.

The search operations also led to the recovery of a quantity of weapons, including sub-machine guns, sawn-off shotguns, cartriges and pistols, in addition to radios and subversive literature.

Woman Journalist Assassinated by 'Terrorists'

LD2105123395 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Security Services today announced that a 32-year old female journalist, Malika Sabeur, in the weekly national EL-CHOUROUK EL-ARABI was today, Sunday, assassinated at 0130 hours by armed terrorists who stormed her house in the district of Djaafria, Reghaia, in the Boumerdas Province.

Egypt

Musa Confirms Arab Summit To Convene 27 May

NC2205105295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0945 GMT 22 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 22 May (MENA) — Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has affirmed that the mini Arab summit will convene on the proposed date, Saturday 27 May, in Morocco, as long as the Arab leaders approve this date.

The foreign minister said in statements to journalists today that Moroccan monarch King Hassan II will officially announce the date of the summit after his envoys return from their tours of those Arab countries he has invited to attend the summit.

He pointed out that the date for the foreign ministers meeting ahead of the minisummit has not been fixed but will be either 25 or 26 May.

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Asked about Syria's stance on participating in the summit, 'Amr Musa said this will be defined later today when Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad receives Moroccan Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr. Abdellatif Filali.

Mubarak Accepts Invitation

NC2005091395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0745 GMT 20 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 20 May (MENA) — After his meeting with President Husni Mubarak this morning, Abdellatif Filali, Moroccan prime minister and foreign minister and envoy of King Hassan II, said that President Mubarak had welcomed the call for an Arab minisummit to discuss Jerusalem. He expressed his readiness to attend it and to make the necessary decisions.

Filali said that the Moroccan King, in his capacity as chairman of the Jerusalem Committee, saw that the current circumstances dictate that the Arab leaders, especially those directly concerned, meet to exchange views and make the necessary decisions vis-a-vis this serious situation.

He said he will leave for Saudi Arabia today to meet with King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al- Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques. He said this will be followed by meetings with Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, and later with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. The meetings, he said, are part of his current tour to extend invitations for the Arab minisummit.

Filali said that another envoy of King Hassan II will start a tour of several other Arab countries today with the same mission. He hopes the summit will be held as soon as possible, before the end of this month.

Asked if the Jerusalem Committee, which was formed by the Organization of the Islamic Conference, will hold a meeting parallel to the minisummit, the Moroccan prime minister answered: There is nothing to prevent such a meeting; it is possible. But we believe that precedence should now be given to an Arab minisummit.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, who attended the meeting between President Mubarak and Filali, said that the Moroccan envoy delivered a message from King Hassan II to President Mubarak dealing with the Arab summit, which is expected to be held soon.

He said the meeting dealt with important topical issues, notably Jerusalem and the repercussions of the decision to confiscate Arab lands, the situation at the UN Security Council, the latest developments in the peace process, and the Arab situation in general.

He said the Arab summit will be held basically to discuss Jerusalem and the problems created by Israel's policy on the city.

He said the summit will offer a good chance to exchange views on all common concerns, both regarding the peace process and any other issue on the table.

Mubarak Discusses Jerusalem Issue, U.S. Veto

NC2005161695 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic 1400 GMT 20 May 95

[News conference by President Husni Mubarak with unidentified correspondents at the Presidential Office in Heliopolis on 20 May—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Mr. President, today you received the Moroccan prime minister. I believe the topic of discussion revolved around the topical issue of the Arab summit, expected to be held soon, God willing, as well as contacts you have held recently. What is the latest news on the Arab summit? Will it be held soon, where, and how many countries will attend?

[Mubarak] The problem of Jerusalem has complicated the process for us from its very roots. It was totally unexpected. The land has been usurped, despite the fact that agreement has been reached over the issue of Jerusalem in all the Madrid principles, the international agreements, and the Israeli-Palestinian Declaration of Principles. All the preceding stipulate that the topic of Jerusalem should not be discussed at all until the final stage negotiations, the land is returned, people are feeling comfortable, and everyone can think sensibly about what to do with the Jerusalem issue.

What has happened has caused great confusion. What I am worried about is that it will hamper the peace process itself. I can see things getting more and more complicated despite the huge efforts we are exerting along with all peace-loving nations. The subject was referred to the Security Council. I am not convinced that this matter can be resolved through negotiations. Negotiations have faltered. There was agreement during the negotiations that there can be no tampering with the Jerusalem issue until we reach the final stage negotiations on Jerusalem. This matter was presented before the Security Council. I expected the United States as a friendly state not to cast the veto. I expected it to abstain, or I expected a draft resolution to be issued calling on Israel to resolve the problem, not usurp the land, and leave this matter to the final negotiations. Actually, this issue has become very complicated and is affecting Islamic public opinion in the region, particularly since Jerusalem is a holy place

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for both the Arab and Islamic nations. Problems will arise and this issue is being used as a defiance of public opinion.

Unfortunately, I regret this stance. Now there is talk about a summit. King Hassan II of Morocco, in his capacity as president of the Jerusalem Committee in the Organization of the Islamic Conference, will ask some Arab countries to attend the conference. He may ask the countries neighboring Israel, as well as the Gulf Cooperation Council chairman, the Arab Maghreb Union chairman, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and perhaps others. We are hearing some ideas, or we have been informed about some ideas. Today, the Moroccan prime minister delivered a message to me from King Hassan. He will leave today at 1500 for Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Damascus to call for a summit within this framework.

[Correspondent] Has a date for the summit been set?

[Mubarak] There are some proposals — probably within ten or 15 days. Of course, the date depends on the commitments of the leaders, if agreement is reached to convene the summit.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, can we go back to the U.S. veto and discuss its effect on the course of the Middle East peace march? Rabin said in Washington that the Jerusalem issue is a domestic and internal issue. What do you have to say about this?

[Mubarak] No. The subject of Jerusalem has been mentioned in our agreements, within the Camp David Agreement. We spoke about the Jerusalem issue in our peace agreement. In addition, the Israeli-Palestinian Declaration of Principles, the Madrid principles, and the UN resolutions all mentioned the Jerusalem issue. Jerusalem is a topic which we will negotiate over; it can be resolved through negotiations. I told Mr. Rabin this in the first meeting we ever had. I told him to keep away from Jerusalem and that the Jerusalem issue should not be raised until after land is restored and tempers cool down. After land is returned, we can all sit down and think sensibly about what to do with Jerusalem. We will certainly find a solution to the Jerusalem problem. But I do not know what happened. Was it because of party one-upmanship and upcoming elections? These are negatively affecting the peace process. We are exerting huge efforts in the peace process, but then we get obstacles of this kind that confuse us. We cannot think clearly about how the peace process is moving. This came after complications in the Palestinian track, which is a real problem. The Declaration of Principles has not been implemented in full; Israel claims for security reasons and the Palestinians say they are unable to implement it. But complications in the Palestinian track will reflect negatively on the peace process.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency, they say that the new investment draft plan will abolish exemptions and privileges enjoyed by investments in Egypt.

[Mubarak] Let me tell you something. Talking about the uniform investment plan advocated by some, such as the IMF and others, we know what our interests are. First, the facilities we render to investors will not be affected and will continue whether under a uniform plan or other plan. There is need for investors and to encourage investment and capital to create jobs for the people.

We will not be able to listen to every demand by any foreign party affecting our investment.

[Correspondent] You mean protection is guaranteed for the newly born national industry?

[Mubarak] The issue is not industry. I need investors. We can protect national industry in numerous ways and we must encourage it so that it can improve. But we give a 10-year grace period for any investor in the new cities. If they want to abolish all this, it is impossible and will not happen.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency, you met today with the Council of Ministers. What did you discuss?

[Mubarak] Actually, I meet with the Council of Ministers frequently to assure myself about the progress of projects. How we are progressing in agriculture, industry, investment, tourism, and public services, that is, waste disposal, water, electricity, and education. I conduct a kind of survey for all the problems I read about in the press sometimes and in some world reports and I hear many observations here at home.

So I ask the ministers concerned and the prime minister: What has happened about this particular issue? What about that issue? Why has this or that not happened? What is the progress of public services? What are the facilities given to the people? What are the problems facing the people and how should we resolve them? All this takes at least three hours, even if done quickly.

[Correspondent] Is Egypt currently trying to convince Israel to expedite negotiations on the final status of Jerusalem before Jerusalem is Judaized completely?

[Mubarak] There is the Declaration of Principles in place....

[Correspondent, interrupting] But they are not implementing it.

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[Mubarak] If they are not going to implement it, how can we ask them to discuss Jerusalem? If I ask a Palestinian or any country let us reach an understanding about Jerusalem, they will ask is the land occupied, how can I look for Jerusalem, and how can I reach Jerusalem in the first place? This is illogical. The parties that signed the accord must comply with it; otherwise, the peace process will be bogged down. If the peace process is bogged down, I fear its consequences because this will pose a danger to the region, including Israel.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, when any problem faces the Arab nation, Arab reconciliation looms in the horizon so that the Arab nation may have a voice at the United Nations or at world blocs. What does Your Excellency think?

[Mubarak] Arab reconciliation had a nail put in its coffin when Iraq ate Kuwait. We in Egypt concluded a peace treaty in Camp David and took no land from anyone. We did not bite anyone in the back and did not attack anyone and they were forced, through pressure from several countries, to boycott us for 10 years. We are not prejudiced against anyone but when someone occupies the other's land, we do not expect passions to be calm in 2, 3, or 4 years.

However, we support Arab reconciliation but this takes time. We talk continuously on all occasions and exchange messages. Reconciliation takes time and perhaps the passions now are better than before, but I hope we reach something soon. Of course, that act disintegrated the Arab nation more than at any time before and created grudges and hatred. It fragmented the Arab fold and undermined the Arab world's unity.

[Correspondent] Do you expect the Arab minisummit to discuss other topical Arab issues, such as Libya and the partition of Iraq?

[Mubarak] If an Arab summit is held, it will be limited. We will discuss the Jerusalem issue and certainly we will discuss other issues. I cannot predict what we will discuss until the Arabs agree on the summit so that we can consider what to do.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, regarding the peace process, there is frustration in Egypt and the Arab world about it as a result of the Israeli behavior. What does Egypt ask of Israel and the United States under these circumstances?

[Mubarak] I will ask Israel for nothing other than to comply with the agreements and charters so that we can go ahead with the peace process. The two cosponsors of the peace process should help with the peace process.

Mubarak Says U.S. Veto Will Have 'Negative Effect'

NC1905203295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1944 GMT 19 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 19 May (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak warned that the U.S. use of the veto against the UN Security Council's draft resolution that affirmed the invalidity of the annexation of Palestinian territories in occupied East Jerusalem will have a negative effect on the peace process. It will also effect the stability in the region, "where we were all working strenuously to restore rights and end the wars that exhausted lives and funds so that the governments and peoples can devote themselves to raising the standard of living under a comprehensive, lasting, and fair peace."

In exclusive statements to AL-AHRAM to be published on 20 May, President Mubarak said: The United States was expected to help issue a resolution calling on Israel to return the usurped territories and not to change the status of Jerusalem until the negotiations on this extremely important and sensitive issue are concluded in accordance with international agreements and the Oslo and Madrid agreements.

President Mubarak added: "The U.S. veto might make matters more complicated. I stress again that it went against the fair demands of the Arab and Islamic peoples. It contravened the firm U.S. position on this issue and also contravened all the UN Security Council and General Assembly resolutions issued since 1967."

He said that the U.S. veto of the Jerusalem issue has created a more acute and vehement Arab and Islamic feeling, especially as it came a short time after the U.S. position at the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty conference that allowed Israel not to join the treaty.

Musa Comments on Israeli Measures, Arab Summit

NC2105160295 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 21 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has affirmed that the upcoming Arab summit is significant because it will substantiate the unified and serious Arab stand vis-a-vis the Israeli challenges. He said that it is impossible to underestimate the importance of this stand. The foreign minister noted that the Arab summit will discuss Israel's measures in Arab Jerusalem and what stand the Arabs should adopt.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa added that Egypt cannot accept any expropriation of the Arab land in Jerusalem or any other part of the occupied territories because all these territories are considered occupied land according

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to UN Security Council Resolution 242. Therefore, Israel must withdraw from these lands as stipulated in the Security Council resolution, the UN Charter, international law, and the Fourth Geneva Convention, Musa said. He added that Egypt's stand is resolute and stressed that Egypt will not recognize any annexation or confiscation of land. He said that Israel's measures must be halted so that the peace process can continue and a suitable atmosphere for the peace process can be created.

Continuing, the foreign minister said that Egypt hopes that the peace process will forge ahead in accordance with the land for peace principle. He said that the peace process must not be halted. Efforts must rather be made to salvage the peace process, he added. 'Amr Musa said this dictates that Israel's measures be halted because these measures are impeding the peace process and are hitting the process at its most vulnerable spot. The foreign minister stressed that Egypt endeavors to safeguard the peace process in accordance with the principles on which it was founded, international law, Security Council Resolution 242, the land for peace principle, right for right, and commitment for commitment.

In press statements, the foreign minister said that the Arab summit will be held in Morocco and the proposed date is 27 May. This summit will be preceded by a meeting of the foreign ministers, Musa added. He said that the final date of the summit is contingent on the contacts being conducted by the Moroccan envoys.

On the countries that will take part in the summit, the foreign minister said that they are the countries that will be visited by the Moroccan envoys. He reiterated that Egypt is working to salvage the peace process against the Israeli threats.

Musa Meets British Envoy on Peace 'Obstacles'

NC2105125095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1220 GMT 21 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 21 May (MENA) — Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today met British Ambassador in Cairo David Blatherwick. Afterward the ambassador said his talks with Musa dealt with developments in the Middle East and efforts to overcome the obstacles facing the peace negotiations in the region.

The British envoy added that his country enjoys strong ties with Egypt and that consultations between the two are continuing. He said President Mubarak's recent visit to the United Kingdom helped promote bilateral relations. The British ambassador described Prince Charles' visit to Egypt as positive.

In his statement the British ambassador said the Jerusalem issue is difficult, stressing that it must be resolved through negotiations. He pointed out that Britain and the EU member states are trying to overcome the obstacles to the Mideast peace process.

Solidarity Group Denounces Veto, Urges Arab Action

NC2105112595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1050 GMT 21 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 21 May (MENA) — The Egyptian Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee has denounced the intransigent U.S. stance against the international will and the use of veto to abort a draft resolution condemning Israel and rejecting the confiscation of Arab land in East Jerusalem, although 14 Security Council member states approved the draft.

In a statement today the committee expressed appreciation for the speedy action by the Arab League and many Arab countries to hold an Arab summit in Rabat. It said this position is a positive step to restore the role of the Arab League in addressing fateful issues and renouncing Arab differences and conflicts.

The committee expressed the hope that the summit will come up with a practical position against the Israeli intransigence and U.S. support for Israel to save the Middle East peace process from Israeli procrastination and ambitions on Arab territory.

The committee urged the Arab leaders to work for a comprehensive Arab reconciliation on a firm basis and foundations, because Arab solidarity is the nation's only weapon against the current U.S. and Israeli position. That way the nation will not be subjected to fragmentation and collapse.

Press Association Condemns U.S. 'Double Standards'

NC2105155095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1440 GMT 21 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 21 May (MENA) — The Egyptian Press Association has called on the Arab minisummit expected to be held in Morocco to discuss Jerusalem to adopt a resolute stance that returns things to their correct course on the basis of Arab-Islamic solidarity and in no way relinquishes holy Jerusalem or any part of the occupied Arab territories.

In a statement issued today, the Association's council condemned Israel's expropriation of more Arab lands in holy Jerusalem and its disrespect for all norms, values, and canons.

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The council strongly denounced the U.S. bias toward Israel and its veto of the UN Security Council resolution that condemns these Israeli practices.

The statement said that this U.S. position clearly shows that the United States does not stand by people's rights and that it applies double standards, totally disregards people's rights and international legitimacy, and helps the Zionist entity continue its onslaught on Arab rights and its disregard for the will of the international community.

Papers Claim Peace Process in 'Serious Trouble'

NC2105072095 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0610 GMT 21 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 21 May (MENA) — AL-AHRAM and AL-JUMHURIYAH state that the Middle East peace process is now in more serious trouble than ever since the launch of the Madrid conference in 1991. They say the entire process is being threatened with deadlock, termination, and new lapses.

In an editorial today, AL-AHRAM says the Israeli practices that dealt painful blows to the peace process created an atmosphere of no-confidence in the region, something that reflected on the peace process. The Arabs felt they were the only side required to offer one concession after another, while Israel failed to meet even those obligations it took on in the various peace agreements.

The paper points out that Israel showed no readiness to meet Arab flexibility with the response it deserves. Indeed Israel dealt painful blows as it evaded its obligations toward implementing the second stage of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles and decided to confiscate Palestinian land in Jerusalem in defiance of the sentiments of the entire Muslim world. All this coincided with a hardline Israeli position toward the nuclear weapons issue, the paper adds.

AL-AHRAM says the United States used its veto against a Security Council resolution on Israel's confiscation of Jerusalem land under the pretext that the issue of Jerusalem should be discussed at the negotiating table, not at the Security Council. But the response to this, the paper says, is that Israel did not respect the negotiations, and this is why there was recourse to the Security Council.

The paper calls on the cosponsors of the Middle East peace process to place the negotiations on the right track, to create a healthy climate for them, and to seriously revive them. It calls for a tangible role by Washington in particular.

AL-JUMHURIYAH expresses the belief that the U.S. veto of the Security Council resolution complicated things. It says the veto came as a strong shock to all dreams of peace and stability in the Middle East.

The paper says Israel cannot negotiate without noise, and cannot discuss peace without violating all principles, values, and rules of peace, even in the city of peace, Jerusalem.

No matter what happens, AL-JUMHURIYAH says, the fate of Jerusalem will not be decided by Israeli statements. The United States, Israel, and the whole world know this fact.

Visit Request of Iraqi Parliament Speaker Rejected

MM1905142295 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic
14-20 May 95 p 19

[Unattributed report: "Cairo Refuses To Receive Iraqi Parliament Speaker"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Egypt has once again rejected Baghdad's request to allow Mahdi Salih, speaker of the Iraqi parliament, to visit the Egyptian capital to meet with the Egyptian parliament speaker in his capacity as the current president of the international parliamentary council. It proposed that such a meeting should be held at the international parliament's headquarters outside Egypt, since Cairo does not intend to receive any Iraqi official at present, especially in the wake of the increasing allegations being made by Iraqi media services about the existence of Egyptian-Iraqi contacts aimed at agreeing on a resumption of bilateral relations between the two countries — which the Egyptian capital denied a few days ago through Dr. Usamah al-Baz [director of Egyptian president's office for political affairs], saying that there are no Egyptian-Iraqi contacts, nor is Egypt thinking of sending any envoys to Iraq at present.

'Air Bridge' To Return Libyan Pilgrims From Mecca

NC2105205295 Paris AFP in English
1718 GMT 21 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, May 21 (AFP) — Egypt restarted on Sunday [21 May] an air bridge to fly home 6,000 Libyan pilgrims from Saudi Arabia, a month after a first bridge transported them there in a UN-agreed exception to the air embargo on Libya.

"Two Egypt Air planes will provide in the coming days 32 flights to transport 6,000 Libyan pilgrims from Jeddah airport to Tripoli and Benghazi," an official from the national carrier Egypt Air said.

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He said the flights began Sunday with two flights carrying a total 400 passengers.

Egypt Air launched on April 20 an air bridge of 24 round trip flights to transport the pilgrims to Mecca for the hajj, which ended in mid-May, after the UN granted it an exception to the three-year air embargo on Libya.

Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi swore in April to defy the UN sanctions and did so at the last minute, sending a single Libyan Air jet to Saudi Arabia, violating the embargo even as Egyptian planes prepared the air bridge to Mecca.

The United Nations slapped the embargo on Libya in April 1992, accusing it of harboring the authors of the 1988 Lockerbie bombing that killed 270 people.

Libya

Government, Press React to U.S. Veto

Qadhdhafi Writes Arab Leaders

LD2105190095 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1745 GMT 21 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 21 May 1995, JANA — Following the use of the right of veto by the United States against a resolution condemning the Israeli enemy for seizing other Arab lands in the city of Jerusalem, the brother leader of the revolution has addressed a message to Arab presidents and kings, the text of which follows:

To Arab presidents and kings,

I think that you would not need after this any evidence from me that the United States scorns the Arab nation, has disdain for sacred Arab rights, and insults the Arab nation in front of the world, and is used to the fact that Arabs are too cowardly to make any reaction against it.

In its insolent scorn, the United States said that the UN Security Council has no responsibility with regard to the annexion of other peoples' land by force ... It has, however, responsibility regarding the issue of the downing of a civilian plane by unknown people, in contradiction with the texts of the UN Charter ... The United States has decided to impose the unreasonable thing and has decided to say black is white and white is black and the Arabs can get lost.

[Signed] Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi

U.S. 'Support of Agression' Criticized

LD2005120795 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0730 GMT 20 May 95

[Statement by "a source at the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation"; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] The United States proved once more its support of aggression against right by preventing the Security Council from issuing a resolution condemning the Israeli enemy for its seizure of more Arab land in holy Jerusalem, and confirmed its complete bias toward the Israelis and its determination to support the usurping aggressor by making available to it all the means of military and political superiority and helping it to occupy land by force and impose a fait accompli.

The source said: We were neither astonished nor surprised by the U.S. position, which constitutes new evidence of the validity of our point of view and the precision of our analyses of the regional and international conditions. This position came as a blow to those who bet on the United States and believed that it was their friend... and a blast to the Israeli and U.S. allegations and claims on the so-called peace process. We could not believe the United States would abandon the Israelis, who were, in its calculations, above everyone.

The source added: Now it has become clearer than at any time that the United Nations and the Security Council are among the tools serving U.S. policy. It has become impossible to consider the UN and Security Council to be expressive of the world countries' will. The United States stressed that its decision did not proceed from its interests. However, it is defined by the strategic U.S.—Israeli alliance, which harms U.S. interests and the world. It is impossible for any state to heed, to be committed to, or implement any of the UN and Security Council's resolutions if the world does not force the United States and the Israelis to respect the international community, conventions, and international laws, and implement more than 40 resolutions issued against them. They have not implemented one of them, and they should be subjected immediately to Clause 7 of the UN Charter in order to restore credibility and respect to the Security Council and the United Nations.

The source concluded his statement by saying that the Arab nation and the peoples of the world are invited to respond to this U.S. insult, which has not troubled us as much as confirmed the soundness of our position and the validity of our assessment. It has revealed the illusions and the mirage of peace, which they claim to nurture, although they were the first to prevent its implementation.

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Paper Views U.S. 'Double Standards'

LD1905200295 Tripoli JANA in Arabic
1715 GMT 19 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli (JANA) — AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR, published here, points out that the United States supports our view that peace based on weakness cannot restore a usurped right. In today's leader it states: The United States used its veto at a time when the entire world objects to the Zionist measure of confiscating Arab land in East Jerusalem. The United States measure was expected, but some naive people believed that surrender, and throwing one's self into the laps of the United States and its allies was something that would end the double standards practiced by the United States in connection with the Arab-Zionist conflict.

The paper adds that the United States reaffirmed beyond any doubt that nothing has changed, and that Israel is above everything, despite all changes, and no matter how much the Arabs may surrender. No doubt that this U.S. decision [words indistinct] Arab negative thinking. We do not believe that progressive forces in the Arab homeland will be annoyed by this harsh U.S. measure, which has proved the soundness and correctness of our stance.

We say that the United States will never abandon the Zionists as a state, which must rise above the ruins of Palestine, or rather above the ruins of the entire Arab nation in the absence of a deterrent which could prevent the United States from realizing its dream.

We also warned that those who run after the illusion of peace from among the Arabs would be shocked at times by deadly obstacles. Perhaps this U.S. veto is the greatest obstacle and the strongest shock to hit the capitulationist official Arab leaders.

AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR goes on to say: We said that the illusion of peace, which some people have been trying to embroider and who endeavored to make it a living reality, actually never exceeded being a mirage through which the United States hoped to freeze the spirit of resistance to Israel building settlements in Palestine, and later, to end a problem concerning which it had long taken the side of its ally, Israel. It stresses that by doing this, the United States realized some of its dreams, but at the same time, the dreams of others had evaporated, the dreams of those who had banked on the assumption that by playing the role of peacekeeper, the United States would be equitous and just, and responsible for any thuggery or illegal acts carried out by the Zionists. But what next?

The paper further says: 'Arafat, who was given free advice so many times, finds himself in an impasse from which he is not likely to escape, even if he tries to alleviate or play down the shock, for, at a time when he is looking forward to more illusory withdrawals from parts of the Palestinian territory, Israel is expropriating more land and committing fresh massacres which undermine all the shaky dreams. At a time when 'Arafat is expecting a complete form of so-called self-rule authority, he finds a determination from the Zionists to maintain the situation as it is now, and to confine its role to burying the spirit of resistance, hunting the revolutionaries of the angry generation, and setting up gallows in public squares to execute those who reject the policy of surrender.

AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR ends by saying that what remains is for us to thank the United States, which every day supports the truth of our viewpoint that peace based on weakness cannot restore a usurped right.

Government, Egypt Discuss Israel, Jerusalem

Mubarak Calls al-Qadhdhafi

LD1705193395 Tripoli JANA in English
1805 GMT 17 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli/ Al Maa 17 [May]/ JAMAHARIYA NEWS AGENCY [dateline as received] — A telephone call was made yesterday [16 May] between the leader of the revolution and President Husni Mubarak of Egypt during which points of view were exchanged on a number of issues of joint interest and further consultations were made in respect of the Israeli enemy's confiscation for more Arab territories in occupied Jerusalem and the need to hold an Arab summit alongside the on going measures to call for an urgent summit for the seven member Jerusalem committee.

Egypt's Musa Arrives for Meetings

LD1705203095 Tripoli JANA in Arabic
1920 GMT 17 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli 17 May — Continuing the consultation between the brother leader of the revolution and President Husni Mubarak on issues of common interest which were discussed during their telephone conversation on 16 May, the brother leader of the revolution today received 'Amr Musa, Egyptian foreign minister.

During the meeting, the situation in the occupied city of Jerusalem after the seizure of further Arab land in Jerusalem and the need to hold a new Arab summit were discussed and also the contacts that are taking place

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presently for holding an Islamic summit in Morocco. The sea blockade imposed by the Israeli enemy on Lebanon that has been going on for 100 days and the destruction of Iraq were also raised.

Their points of view have become close on all the issues and subjects discussed during this meeting.

Musa Delivers Message, Addresses Meeting

NC1705204095 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tonight brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi received Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, who is visiting Libya.

'Amr Musa told our radio correspondent in Libya that he delivered to al-Qadhdhafi a message from President Husni Mubarak.

He added that during the meeting he outlined to al-Qadhdhafi the Egyptian assessment of developments in the Middle East and the Arab League's efforts to confront the problems confronting the peace process. He noted that they also discussed Egyptian-Libyan relations.

Musa said that brother Col. al-Qadhdhafi explained the problems facing Libya, the Libyan assessment of conditions in the Arab Maghreb, and Libya's views on circumstances in the Middle East.

The Egyptian foreign minister reported that brother Col. al- Qadhdhafi asked him to convey a message to President Husni Mubarak on Libya's position on every development in the Arab region.

'Amr Musa will leave Libya for Morocco tomorrow morning.

He arrived in the Libyan city of al-Zawiyah at noon today for a one-day visit. Immediately after his arrival he held a round of talks with Jum'ah al-Fazzani, secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity Affairs. They reviewed Arab developments and the ongoing consultations to convene an Arab minisummit.

Sudan

Reportage, Reaction to Opposition Leader's Arrest

Circumstances of Arrest Explained

MM1905143295 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 19 May 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Kamal Hamid and Nizar Daw-al-Na'im: "Khartoum: Al-Mahdi Is Arrested Because of His Responsibility for His Party's Agreements With 'Rebels'"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Khartoum, London — The Sudanese Government has revealed the reasons for arresting al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, former prime minister and leader of the Ummah Party, who has been in detention for 72 hours. It stressed that al-Mahdi "is held for questioning about his responsibility for the statements made by 'Umar Nur-al-Da'im (the party's secretary general) and the agreement he signed with the rebel leaders in Chukudum " in southern Sudan in December 1994. [passage omitted]

A senior Sudanese security official told AL-HAYAH in Khartoum yesterday that al-Mahdi "is held in Kubar prison, and the reports saying that he is held at one of the security organ's centers are baseless." He pointed out that security authorities "informed him a day before his arrest that he was wanted [for questioning]. And that the reason was for him to clarify his responsibility for Nur-al-Da'im's statements, in which he said that the Chukudum agreement (between the Ummah Party and the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement, led by Colonel John Garang) enjoys the approval and support of the Ummah Party in Sudan."

The source said: "We kept the communications between oppositionists in the country and abroad under observation for a long time until we corroborated information on the basis of which we arrested al-Mahdi." The source strongly denied the existence of any link between al-Mahdi's arrest and his 'Id al-Adha sermon, in which he vehemently criticized the government." [passage omitted]

In London, 'Umar Nur-al-Da'im vehemently attacked the government's accusations against al-Mahdi. He told AL-HAYAH that al-Mahdi's arrest will not benefit the regime, and it will lead to nothing except escalating opposition action. And the regime already is facing problems and deteriorations which arrests will not help to solve." [passage omitted]

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Opposition Condemns Arrest

NC1805204495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1830 GMT 18 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 18 May (MENA)—Sudanese groups abroad have denounced the Sudanese authority's decision to arrest former Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, leader of the al-Ummah party, and his detention to an unknown location.

Al-Ummah party's Freedom and Human Rights Commission expressed its deep concern for al-Mahdi's safety. In a statement to MENA it said that the history of special detention places in Sudan casts doubt on the detainees' safety, particularly after the death of more than five members of the political opposition due to torture, malnutrition, and bad ventilation.

The commission appealed to the UN secretary general, regional and international organizations, and all the organizations involved in human rights to pressure the Sudanese Government in Khartoum to release al-Mahdi or, to at least put him on trial quickly.

The Sudanese group on the victims of torture warned in a statement sent to MENA that al-Mahdi is facing the threat of execution. It appealed to the international community and human rights organizations to intervene and put pressure on the Government to release him and all political prisoners.

The Sudanese National Democratic Grouping pointed out that al- Mahdi's detention comes as demonstrations in the capital and other regions are protesting the appalling living conditions and public services that resulted due to the failure, inefficiency, and negligence of the Sudanese National Salvation Front.

The group further stated that the situation—which is fraught with terrorism, oppression, and the regime's failure—has peaked with the arrest of one of the country's symbols and leaders of the opposition.

It called on world opinion and all democracy-loving powers to condemn what is happening in Sudan as a result of the failing regime's oppression and arrests and to put pressure on the Sudanese regime to release all the detainees, particularly al-Mahdi, and to guarantee his safety.

The allied Sudanese opposition condemns al-Mahdi's arrest, affirming that this conduct will not silence the opposition in the country. They call on the international community to take a firm position on al-Mahdi's detention and the regime's continued violation of Sudanese human rights.

Warning of 'Bloodbath' If Leader Harmed

MM2205100395 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 20 May 95 pp 1, 6

[Unattributed report: "Ummah Party: Any Harm to al-Mahdi's Life Would Push Sudan Toward Bloodbath"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London, AL-HAYAH — The Sudanese opposition Ummah Party yesterday warned that "any harm to the life" of al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, former prime minister and the party's leader, "would push the country toward a bloodbath." The party urged Sudanese authorities to release al-Mahdi or to announce the reasons for his arrest and allow his lawyer and members of his family to visit him.

In a statement, of which AL-HAYAH received a copy yesterday, Mubarak al-Fadil, official in charge of external action in the party, pointed out that the authorities "still — three days after al-Mahdi's arrest — have not issued any official statement to explain the reasons for his arrest and to reveal his whereabouts. Nor have they allowed his family to visit him. And they refused to receive his clothes and personal necessities."

He stressed that al-Sadiq al-Mahdi is "being held in a secret security residence in an area west of the Kubar district, not in Kubar prison as claimed by the authorities in a bid to mislead public opinion." [passage omitted]

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Bahrain

Council Regrets U.S. Veto of Jerusalem Resolution

JN2105152995 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1400 GMT 21 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Manama, 21 May (WAKH)—In its meeting today chaired by Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, the Council of Ministers in the State of Bahrain said it regretted the U.S. veto of the Security Council resolution on the Israeli confiscation of Arab land in Jerusalem.

The council urged the cosponsors of the Middle East peace process to expedite efforts to rescue the peace process from the dangers it is facing as a result of the Israeli practices.

The council emphasized the importance of the role of the cosponsors in mending the situation and ridding the region of the dangers that may take place if the available historical opportunity to realize just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East is wasted. [passage omitted]

Diplomatic Ties Established With Tajikistan

JN2005065495 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0545 GMT 20 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 20 May (WAKH)—The Government of the State of Bahrain and the Republic of Tajikistan have decided to establish diplomatic relations on the ambassadorial level.

A Bahraini Foreign Ministry statement issued today said: The Government of the State of Bahrain and the Republic of Tajikistan, out of their desire to promote relations of friendship between them and to bolster bilateral cooperation in all fields of interest to both countries, and out of their concern to promote these relations, which are based on mutual respect for regional security and sovereignty, on noninterference in the two countries' internal affairs, and on their abidance by the United Nations' principles and objectives of reinforcing world peace and security, have agreed to establish diplomatic relations between them at the ambassadorial level.

Kuwait

Assembly Attacks Israeli, U.S. Moves on Jerusalem

LD2005160795 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1400 GMT 20 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 20 May (KUNA) — The Kuwait National Assembly today denounced the decision of the Israeli authorities to expropriate Palestinian lands in Jerusalem, calling on Islamic nations to stand firmly against this decision.

A statement issued by the assembly makes clear that the Israeli measures aimed at completing the Judaization of the holy town of Jerusalem and imposing a fait accompli on any future negotiations on the final status of Jerusalem.

The statement points out that the Israeli decision to expropriate Palestinian lands contravenes UN resolutions and the principles of justice and ownership rights.

The Kuwaiti National Assembly expresses regret over the U.S. veto against a resolution adopted by the Security Council urging Israel to annul expropriation of Palestinian lands.

The statement says that the American position shows "a complete bias toward Israel's expansionist and settlement-building policy, and does not take into consideration the consequences and long-term impacts of these measures."

The statement calls on the United States to support justice and the return of expropriated lands to its owners," and warns against current U.S. Congress attempts to move the American embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

United Arab Emirates

Morocco's Filali Arrives With Invitation to Summit

JN2105163195 Manama WAKH in English 1600 GMT 21 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Abu Dhabi, 21 May (WAKH)—Moroccan Prime Minister and Foreign Minister [Abdellatif Filali] arrived today for a visit as part of a regional tour.

Filali is touring some Arab nations to invite them for mini-summit in Morocco to discuss response to Israel's seizure of more Arab land in Jerusalem.

Shaykh Zayid Accepts Invitation

JN2205104995 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Radio Network in Arabic 0930 GMT 22 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Deputy Prime Minister Shaykh Sultan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan met with Dr. Abdellatif Filali, Moroccan deputy prime minister and foreign minister, this morning. They discussed bilateral ties and exchanged views on current Arab developments and the consultations currently under way among Arab leaders to hold an Arab mini-summit to discuss Israeli confiscation of land in occupied Jerusalem and the use

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of the veto by the United States at the UN Security Council.

Abdellatif Filali left the country this morning after a two-day visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE] as part of an Arab tour. He was seen off at Abu Dhabi International Airport by Deputy Prime Minister Shaykh Sultan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, several senior state officials, and Moroccan Ambassador to the UAE Abderrahman Mansouri.

During his visit, the Moroccan prime minister relayed a message from His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco to his brother His Highness UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan inviting him to attend the Arab mini-summit due to be held in Morocco on 27 May.

Shaykh Sultan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan has stated that the UAE welcomes the convening of the Arab mini-summit in Morocco next week to discuss the Jerusalem issue, the Israeli confiscation of Arab land, and the use of the veto by the United States to block the passage of a draft UN Security Council resolution on Jerusalem.

In a statement to the EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY after the departure of the Moroccan prime minister, his highness added that His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan informed the Moroccan envoy that he welcomes the convening of this summit, and that he will attend it. He asserted that there are strong hopes that this inter-Arab meeting will be held. He also hoped that the problems besetting the Arab homeland, chief among which is the holy Jerusalem issue, will be addressed at the summit so that the appropriate solutions may be identified.

When asked if His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan's call for tolerance and inter-Arab reconciliation will be taken up at the Arab summit, his highness the deputy prime minister hoped that such issues will be debated by the summit so that the appropriate means of closing Arab ranks and achieving Arab solidarity and coordination may be identified and acted upon.

Daily Condemns U.S. Veto, Supports Arab Summit

JN2205081895 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 19 May 95 p 1

[Editorial: "The Arab Summit and the Confrontation of Dangers"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Arab, Islamic, and international circles have reacted angrily to the U.S. veto. Fourteen member states of the UN Security Council voted for the draft resolution, while the United States alone voted against it.

The U.S. veto will weaken the peace process, shake confidence between the United States and the Arabs, and prove that the United States automatically adopts Israel's position whether it is right or wrong.

U.S. rejection of the Arabs' interests means a rejection of justice and integrity and indifference to international resolutions and will.

The U.S. veto is in harmony with the Zionist interests. It is a flagrant departure from the international legitimacy and an open violation of the principles and values of peace, which is being sponsored by the United States and Russia.

Following the U.S. veto, the Jerusalem issue has become more complicated. Encouraged by the United States, Israel is working hard to destroy the Arab identity of Jerusalem and create a situation that will determine in advance the results of its negotiations with the Palestinians on the status of the holy city.

Israel's leaders are not deterred by any international resolutions. They know how to abort condemnation resolutions one by one. Israel wanted the region to be the venue of negotiations on land expropriation. This indeed happened when Albright's word at the Security Council decided the issue.

Therefore, it is important to hold an Arab summit in fraternal Morocco, which we hope will come out with a strong Arab position that will be on the level of Arab responsibility. The Arabs have no choice but to unify their ranks and reformulate the entire Arab position in order to confront the dangers and challenges posed by Israel and to coordinate their efforts quickly so that they can draw up a unified Arab policy to face all dangers and challenges.

The Arabs should know that Israel is not serious about the peace process, does not want anything other than its own peace, and is acting against the interests of the Arabs. Why should it not be so since it enjoys being a major military power in the region and a major political power at the United nations?

Saudi Arabia

Morocco's Filali Arrives, Delivers King Hassan Message

LD2005211695 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 20 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud has received a message from his brother, King Hassan II of Morocco. The message was conveyed by Dr. Abdellatif Filali, the Moroccan prime minister and minister

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of foreign affairs and cooperation at an audience with King Fahd in his office in Al-Salam Palace today. [passage omitted]

Dr. Filali arrived earlier today in Jeddah. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Foreign Minister on U.S. Veto, Arab Summit, Saudi Ties

NC2105065195 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 21 May 95

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, in Sanaa, by Muhammad al-Aswad, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [al-Aswad] How do you see Yemeni-Saudi relations? Are you trying to improve ties?

[Al-Iryani] Saudi-Yemeni relations are moving in the right and natural direction as relations of brotherhood and neighborliness between two fraternal countries. We are looking forward to implementing soon all the clauses of the bilateral memorandum of understanding signed in the blessed month of Ramadan. The weeks ahead will no doubt see positive developments in our bilateral relations.

[Al-Aswad] What are these developments?

[Al-Iryani] First, we will begin implementing the memorandum of understanding now that the instruments of ratification have been exchanged and the memorandum has come into force. We hope that the committees formed in accordance with the memorandum will begin holding concurrent meetings in both Sanaa and Riyadh. I am sure these committees will realize all the hopes of the Yemeni and Saudi peoples.

[Al-Aswad] Let us move on to Yemen's position on Arab issues; we will begin with Jerusalem. How does the Yemeni Foreign Ministry view the latest developments concerning holy Jerusalem, beginning with the Israeli decision to expropriate more land in the city?

[Al-Iryani] We will issue an official statement expressing the Yemeni Government's dismay and disappointment at the U.S. use of the veto at the Security Council. The veto was used on an issue that was within international legitimacy, a legitimacy for which we heard the United States calling. Yemen's position is clear and explicit: International legitimacy cannot apply double standards. But this is happening in holy Jerusalem and at the Security Council.

[Al-Aswad] Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, there are Arab moves to confront the repercussions of Israel's decision to expand in Arab Jerusalem and the repercussions of the U.S. veto. There is a call for an Arab summit. How does Yemen view all this?

[Al-Iryani] We hear conflicting news. We hear about a full Arab summit and about a mini Arab summit. Yemen believes that a unified Arab position to confront the challenges of peace and the confiscation of Arab land needs a full, comprehensive Arab summit at which the brothers clear the air among themselves before they stand up to those who are challenging them. Without this, there is no use in any Arab minisummit.

[Al-Aswad] But there is a pressing need for a minisummit to urgently discuss Israel's decision to annex more land in East Jerusalem.

[Al-Iryani] This comes within the framework of the Jerusalem Committee, and, of course, Yemen does not object to this. But this minisummit will reflect the views of the Jerusalem Committee.

[Al-Aswad] How do you see current Yemeni-Egyptian relations?

[Al-Iryani] These relations are deep-rooted in Egypt and Yemen. They invoke their present from their past, and they create their future from their present.

[Al-Aswad] Thank you Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani.

[Al-Iryani] Thank you very much.

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Minister Returns From UN; Activities Detailed

JN2005125795 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 20 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf has returned to Baghdad at the end of a visit to the UN Headquarters which lasted several days.

During the visit, the UN Security Council [UNSC] held a periodic review session of the unfair sanctions clamped on Iraq. The foreign minister met with the French ambassador to the United Nations, who is the current president of the UNSC, and ambassadors of several other UNSC members. He explained to them Iraq's fulfillment of all the commitments enshrined in the relevant UNSC resolutions, particularly those relating to Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687. He also stated in detail the reasons that prompted Iraq to reject UNSC Resolution 986, particularly the provisions that violate its sovereignty and undermine its territorial integrity.

Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf reiterated to the UNSC members that Iraq will continue its cooperation with the UNSC and the UN Special Commission in accordance with fair standards and the UN Charter. At the same time, he underlined the need for the UNSC to reciprocate this cooperation by fulfilling its commitments as enshrined in Resolution 687, which require the implementation of Paragraph 22 of the said resolution. The UNSC, he added, should lift the oil embargo clamped on Iraq and reject the pressures put on it to prevent it from fulfilling these commitments.

The ambassadors of most of the UNSC members the minister has met expressed their understanding of the principled Iraqi position, as well as their eagerness to safeguard Iraq's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. Moreover, they appreciated its cooperation with the UN Special Commission and its fulfillment of its commitments as enshrined in the relevant UNSC resolutions. They also expressed their sympathy with the Iraqi people's ordeal, which is caused by the continuation of the unfair embargo, and hoped that the embargo will be lifted as soon as possible.

Opposition: Regime To Dismiss, Try UN Delegate

NC2105155295 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 21 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Diplomatic sources at the UN believe that Saddam's government is about to make a decision in the next few weeks to remove Nizar Hamdun, the regime's representative at the UN, from his position and return him to Baghdad to put him on trial on several charges.

The same sources add that Hamdun was prevented from accompanying Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf during his recent visit to the UN and did not take part in al-Sahhaf's meetings with UN representatives. Instead, Hamdun was replaced by 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, the regime's former ambassador at the UN. This confirms reports circulated earlier that the regime is not happy with Hamdun's performance at the UN.

Reports on Hamdun's replacement coincide with other reports in Baghdad that Tariq 'Aziz has been removed from his position as official in charge of relations with the UN and the Security Council.

It should be recalled that Nizar Hamdun has served as an assistant to Tariq 'Aziz at the Foreign Ministry for several years.

Interior Minister Target of Assassination Attempt

LD1905131995 London IRAQI BROADCASTING CORPORATION PRESS RELEASE in English 1235 GMT 19 May 95

[Received by fax]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] An Iraqi broadcasting correspondent in Baghdad has learned that at 2115 on the evening of 13 May Watban al-Tikriti, Iraqi interior minister and the half-brother of Saddam Husayn was the target of an assassination attempt as he was returning home.

A group of men in a blue 1982 Mitsubishi car opened fire on Watban al-Tikriti's convoy. The group used weapons equipped with silencers and escaped after the attack.

There is still no confirmation as to whether Watban was hit in the attack, but security forces have set up checkpoints throughout the Iraqi capital and are stopping all cars with the same specifications. Anyone found in such a car is immediately arrested.

Daily Claims U.S. Veto Embarrasses Allies

JN2005083695 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0610 GMT 20 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 20 May (INA) — The newspaper AL—JUMHURIYAH has said that the Zionists are well aware of the threat posed by Iraq. Throughout the past quarter of a century, the Zionists have experienced the volume of President Saddam Husayn's national, pan-Arab, and Islamic influence.

The paper, which speaks for the government, adds that the Zionists will remain worried about their entity and will remain under the obsession of the "Iraqi threat."

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Unlike some capitulationist regimes, the Zionists will not be fooled by the "political settlements" ploy.

Referring to what happened during the UN Security Council's 18 May session, the paper says that 14 permanent and nonpermanent members of the Security Council supported an international draft resolution demanding that the Zionist entity cancel the measures of confiscating 53 hectares in holy Jerusalem. U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright stood alone against the resolution and used the veto right to block it.

The paper stresses that Washington will not pay the least attention to those who linked themselves and their destinies to it. The United States has pushed its friends and allies, especially those who took part in the 30-state aggression against Iraq, into an extremely delicate and scandalous predicament.

The paper advises those recklessly pursuing the U.S.-Zionist scheme to be aware that they will eventually be unable even to say one word their people. Otherwise, they will very likely be chased out with stones, exactly like the Zionists who have been stoned daily for years.

Paper: Veto Reflects 'Deadly U.S. Isolation'

JN2005100095 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0746 GMT 20 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 20 May (INA) — AL-QADISIYAH has said that the U.S. veto reflects deadly U.S. isolation and dissociation from international unanimity. It also reflects disregard for the will of the international community and the opinions of the UN Security Council member states.

The political-military paper adds that the U.S. veto reflects the ugliest manifestations of U.S. hegemony and attempts to unilaterally control peoples' destinies.

The paper says that this veto has unmasked the U.S. Administration's double standards, especially within the UN Security Council, in the interest of the Zionists. The paper says that this "indicates full U.S. bias toward the Zionist entity and its arbitrary policies in contravention with the UN Security Council resolutions."

The paper indicates that treasonous Arab regimes, led by the Al Sa'ud and al-Sabah regimes, and many other Arab regimes are involved in a series of strategic concessions, humiliating capitulationist behavior, and subservience to the United States. All this has prompted Clinton and his Republican rival, Bob Dole, to strive to win the satisfaction of the Zionist lobby.

Concluding its article, the paper stresses that the U.S. 83d veto in support of the Zionist entity will only fan the fire of Arab struggle and bolster the Arab masses' determination to continue struggle against the regimes of treason and submission and against the Zionist-U.S. arrogance.

Paper: Jerusalem Veto 'Real U.S. Political Defeat'

JN2105115095 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0640 GMT 21 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 21 May (INA) — The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has stressed that the United States insists on adopting a constant course of hostility toward the Arabs and their legitimate rights.

The paper, which speaks for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says in an article today that the U.S. veto, which aimed to block a draft resolution on the confiscation of Palestinian Arab lands, exposes the conspicuous and effective role played by the Zionist lobby in U.S. foreign policy decisionmaking.

The paper adds that the United States is not only biased toward the Zionist entity, but is also a basic partner and constant ally to this entity. The United States is not ready to give up this partnership and alliance no matter what changes may occur in the international situation and circumstances.

The paper notes that one of the most significant indications of the U.S. veto is America's isolation at the UN Security Council and loss of its direct or indirect control of the UN Security Council and formulation of its resolutions.

The paper adds that the U.S. veto has shown how unfair, illegitimate, and dishonest the U.S. Administration's policies are, especially those of the Bush and Clinton administrations.

The paper stresses that the U.S. veto is a real U.S. political defeat. Moreover, the paper says, the veto obstructs any fair and conscientious role by the international will.

Ramadan Returns From 'Positive' Indonesia Visit

JN2105154295 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1200 GMT 21 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 21 May (INA) — Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan and his delegation returned to Baghdad after concluding their visit to Indonesia, which lasted several days.

In a statement to the Iraqi News Agency, Taha Yasin Ramadan said he conveyed to Indonesian President Suharto the greetings of President Saddam Husayn; the appreciation of the Iraqi leadership, Government, and people for Indonesia's fair stand on Iraq in international circles, including the Security Council; and Iraq's pride

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in its good relations with Indonesia and its eagerness to bolster them in all areas.

Ramadan also said that Indonesian President Suharto requested that he convey his greetings to President Saddam Husayn, stressing Indonesia's fair stand on Iraq, its serious efforts to coordinate with all international parties, its efforts to apply Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 to lift the blockade on Iraq, its contentment with its relations with Iraq, and its desire to expand them in all areas.

The vice president pointed out that he briefed the Indonesian president on Iraq's cooperation with the Security Council, its implementation of the council's resolutions, and the hostile policy the United States in pursuing against Iraq to peddle its colonialist designs and ambitions in the region. The two sides also discussed bilateral relations and ways to expand them now and in the future.

Ramadan said that he met with the Indonesian vice president and several other officials and that they agreed to raise the Iraqi-Indonesian Joint Committee to the ministerial level. The committee he added, would hold its first meeting at this level this year and that the two sides stressed their joint desire to work on economic, scientific, and technical cooperation.

Ramadan also said that he invited the Indonesian vice president to visit Iraq shortly in order to follow up and implement the agreements reached during his visit to Indonesia.

The vice president described the results of his visit as important, fruitful, and very positive, and said it would enhance relations between Iraq and Indonesia. He said ministers and officials from both countries would soon exchange visits to implement the agreements reached during his visit.

RCC Briefed on Ramadan Trip, Al-Sahhaf UN Talks

JN2105090695 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 0300 GMT 21 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, has presided over a Revolution Command Council [RCC] meeting. The RCC listened to a report on Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan's visit to Indonesia. The RCC commended the visit's positive results in promoting bilateral relations between Iraq and Indonesia in a number of important fields. The RCC expressed appreciation for the support shown by President Suharto and the Indonesian Government for lifting the unjust blockade on the basis of sound legal interpretation of the UN Security Council resolutions.

The RCC also listened to a report on Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf's visit to New York and meetings with representatives of UN Security Council member states. The RCC expressed regret and annoyance with the UN Security Council decision to maintain the unjust blockade — a stand which has drawn angry reactions from our people. The RCC noted that throughout the past four years, Iraq cooperated with the UN Security Council and implemented all its obligations under UN Security Council resolutions. However, the Iraqi people continue to be denied the most basic requirements of life and the UN Security Council continues to ignore Iraq's legitimate demands. This calls for denunciation and skepticism by our people and all fair-minded people in the world.

The RCC stressed that the UN Security Council should take into consideration the importance of implementing its reciprocal obligations so that the people of Iraq would feel the fruits of cooperation with the UN Security Council.

The meeting was attended by the head of the Presidential Office, the foreign minister, and the culture and information minister.

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Moroccan Adviser Arrives With Message for King

JN2005164395 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1600 GMT 20 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Adviser of King Hassan II of Morocco Abdelhadi Boutaleb has arrived here in Amman.

Mr. Boutaleb is carrying a message from the Moroccan monarch to his majesty the king on holding a mini-summit on Israel's confiscation of Palestinian-owned land in east Jerusalem.

The Moroccan envoy was received by his majesty the king's adviser Muhammad Rasul al-Kilani, Senator Nasir-al-Din al-Asad, and the Moroccan ambassador in Amman.

Lauds Support for Summit

JN2005183695 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 May 95

[Report by Kassab Samawi]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Within the framework of efforts to convene an Arab summit to confront the Israeli confiscation of Palestinian land in Arab Jerusalem, His Majesty King Husayn received Abdelhadi Boutaleb, adviser and envoy of King Hassan II of Morocco, at the Royal Hashemite Court this evening.

The Moroccan envoy conveyed to his majesty an invitation from his brother His Majesty King Hassan II to attend an Arab mini-summit in fraternal Morocco on 27 May to discuss the latest developments in the Arab arena, including the issue of Jerusalem in the wake of the recent developments there.

His Majesty emphasized that Jordan is eager to support any joint Arab action and realize Arab solidarity in the service of the Arab nation's causes and the future of the Arabs and their coming generations. His majesty said the convening of an Arab summit requires accurate and appropriate preparation in order to reach successful and clear results. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Samawi] Your Excellency the adviser, would you speak to us about your meeting with his majesty the king and how you found his majesty's support for and eagerness to hold the Arab summit?

[Boutaleb] As always, his majesty is on the forefront in the field of Arab cooperation and closing Arab ranks. He is always fully ready to respond to any initiative from any Arab side. He emphasized this to me. As you know, the message contains an invitation from his majesty the king to convene a mini-summit in Morocco proposed to be held on 27 May. The mini-summit may be followed by a meeting for the foreign ministers of the countries that will attend this meeting to prepare the atmosphere. [sentence as heard] We are holding talks with all the Arab countries that will attend this conference to make preparations to ensure the success of the conference and that it will carry out the tasks expected from it.

[Samawi] Is there a clear picture about the size and level of participation and the countries that will attend this summit?

[Boutaleb] Nine countries will attend the mini-summit, which will be, God willing, a preparation for a full summit in the future.

[Samawi] As Morocco is the host of this summit, what do you think is demanded from this conference?

[Boutaleb] First of all, what is demanded from this summit is for it to convene. The meeting is a noble objective in itself. The Arab world leaders have not met for a long time. I think that meetings are always good and the possibility of convening a summit is always there.

[Samawi] Are the circumstances ripe for adopting a unified and strong Arab decision at this stage in order to confront Israel's designs?

[Boutaleb] This is our hope, and I think that we will not be disappointed. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Reiterates Stand on Arab Summit

JN2105191595 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn held a telephone conversation today with his brother Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak during which they exchanged views on a number of regional and international issues of common interest. They also discussed recent developments in the region, especially issues related to Jerusalem.

Meanwhile, answering a question from our political affairs correspondent Salim 'Ali Dhiyab on the Jordanian stand toward the Arab summit and his participation in it, Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti said that His Majesty King Husayn clearly expressed Jordan's response on attending any Arab meeting.

[Being recording] [al-Kabariti] His majesty clearly expressed the Jordanian response to any call for an Arab coordination meeting. However, his majesty was also clear on the need to be well prepared for this meeting or any other meeting to secure its success.

In fact, the two envoys of His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco are continuing their tours in an effort to

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reach common ground so that a date can be fixed for the meeting.

I think that there are conditions that should be met before this limited meeting is held. This is so that it can achieve specific objectives that lay the foundation for a unified Arab stand that will influence the international arena and serve strategic goals and pan-Arab security in general. We also want this unified Arab stand to serve and reinforce the peace process in particular.

[Dhiyab] Mr. al-Kabariti, do you think the minisummit will be a prelude to an expanded summit in the Arab world?

[Al-Kabariti] Once again, we support any Arab meeting. However we want an effort that unites rather than divides. We hope that this effort will be blessed so that we can all meet in the future without any discrimination, selectivity, or differentiation so that, as I said earlier, we can achieve strategic goals and make the issue of pan-Arab security everyone's concern. [end recording]

'Gradual Sanctions' on Israel at Summit Urged

JN2105110795 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 21 May pp 1, 28

[Editorial: "The Mini-Summit Embodies the Centrality of Jerusalem"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Now that the date and venue of the Arab mini-summit have been officially fixed and the participant countries specified, the Moroccan capital will be, from now until 27 May, in the spotlight as observers watch Arab preparations and start predicting the seriousness and effectiveness of the resolutions that will be issued by the summit.

There is no doubt that the veto used by the United States at the end of last week against a draft resolution on the Israeli confiscations of Arab land in Jerusalem, has given the mini-summit a decisive challenge. This veto has also forced the Arabs to deal with this issue in a new manner different from the previous approach adopted by earlier summits; namely, lodging a fresh complaint with the Security Council and calling on the international community to shoulder its responsibilities.

Therefore, we hope that the mini-summit will reach a unified Arab decision free from rhetoric and generalizations. We hope that this decision will deal with the essence of the situation resulting from the Israeli provocation, through specifying the practical and concrete measures that should be taken to force Israel to reverse its [confiscation] decision under the pressure of a series of gradual sanctions that can be imposed through Arab coordination.

The Arabs still possess a host of privileges and options that can be used very effectively against this blatant Israeli provocation, chief among them are stopping the normalization process, freezing relations with Israel, depriving the Jewish state of the promising opportunities of the current peace process, and denying it access to membership in the Middle East system.

We welcome the call for convening an Arab mini-summit and believe that holding this summit will embody the centrality of Jerusalem to pan-Arab concerns. We hope that this summit will provide an opportunity to restore a considerable degree of the sought Arab solidarity and eradicate the divisions that are still plaguing Arab ranks and encouraging Israel to go too far in disavowing the simplest Arab rights and the United States to disregard the feelings of one billion Arabs and Muslims, showing no interest in the present and future of the holy city.

King To Seek Clear Jerusalem Position With 'Arafat

JN2205083295 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22 May 95 pp 1, 7

[Report by P. V. Vivekanand]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman — Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat is due here on Tuesday for a two-day visit for talks with His Majesty King Husayn on coordinating Jordanian-Palestinian positions and for a meeting with businessmen, a senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official said Sunday.

'Umar al-Khatib, acting Palestinian ambassador to Jordan and representative of the PLO-led Palestinian National Authority (PNA), said Mr. 'Arafat would discuss with King Husayn 'Jordanian-Palestinian coordination in all spheres."

The key themes for the meeting, Mr. al-Khatib told the Jordan Times, will be the latest Israeli moves in Jerusalem, including its seizure of Arab land in the Holy City, as well as the American Congressional moves to shift the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Mr. al-Khatib noted that the meeting between King Husayn and Mr. 'Arafat also comes ahead of an Arab mini-summit to discuss the two issues.

Mr. 'Arafat told reporters in Gaza he "definitely" expected positive results of the mini-summit.

"I have to thank His Majesty King Husayn for this very good and important effort for Jerusalem and the holy places," Mr. 'Arafat said.

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He spoke to reporters after meeting 'Abd-al-Hadi Abu-Talib, King Hassan's envoy, who handed him an invitation to the summit.

Mr. 'Arafat's spokesman Marwan Kanafani said the mini-summit was to be held next Saturday in the Moroccan capital and would be preceded by a meeting of Arab foreign Ministers.

"President 'Arafat worked very hard to reach that point, he is very pleased with the invitation and he will be in Rabat next Saturday," Mr. Kanafani said.

Informed sources said meanwhile that King Husayn would seek a clear and unequivocal position from Mr. 'Arafat on Jordan's approach to the Israeli moves in Jerusalem.

"Jordan has to be fully assured that any action it undertakes or any statement it makes would be interpreted strictly in the framework of the Kingdom's anxiety to ensure Palestinian, 'Arab and Muslim rights in Jerusalem," said one source, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"The time has come to remove all kinds of nuances in the air in the context of Jerusalem and adopt a clear joint Jordanian-Palestinian position on the issue," added the source. "Otherwise the only beneficiary would be Israel."

That was an implicit reference to the PLO's criticism of Jordan for a provision in the Oct. 26 peace treaty with Israel that obliges Israel to respect the kingdom's special religious role in Jerusalem.

Jordan has assured the PLO that the role has no political significance and that the Kingdom is committed to supporting the Palestinian quest for political sovereignty over the Holy City.

While Mr. 'Arafat is no longer talking about the issue in public, there are still signs that the Palestinians are still critical of Jordan over the matter.

According to Mr. al-Khatib, the King and Mr. 'Arafat would also review overall Jordanian-Palestinian relations an the implementation of various cooperation agreements signed by the two sides.

The PLO leader will also brief the monarch on the status of the PLO's negotiations with Israel on expanding self-rule to the rest of the West Bank.

Mr. al-Khatib said Mr. 'Arafat would arrive here from the Gaza Strip on Tuesday and leave for Cairo on Wednesday after his talks with King Husayn and a group of Jordanian and Palestinian businessmen.

"The businessmen requested the meeting, and obviously it would focus on the economy and business prospects in Palestine," Mr. al-Khatib said.

Jordanian-Palestinian business relations are also expected to figure high during the meeting.

In Cairo, Mr. 'Arafat is expected to hold talks with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

Zudhi al-Qudrah, the PLO representative in Cairo, was quoted as saying that Mr. 'Arafat's talks with Mr. Mubarak would focus on the "recent Israeli actions in Jerusalem."

Foreign Minister Previews Visit

JN2105111895 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 21 May 95 p 1

[Report by Nabil Ghayshan]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Jordanian] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti has said that the aim of President Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Jordan is to boost cooperation between the two countries on all levels. He pointed out that the Jordanian-Palestinian summit will discuss this issue only, in addition to the status of Jerusalem in the wake of the recent Israeli measures.

The foreign minister dismissed reports that the Jordanian side will ask the Palestinian president during his visit to reject the so-called Israeli "Janin Second" proposal. It is believed that this proposal will delay the final solution or, at least, the second stage of the final-status talks on the fate of Jerusalem scheduled to begin before May next year.

In his statement to AL-ASWAQ, al-Kabariti confirmed that Jordan will not present any demands to the Palestinian president.

Al-Kabariti on 'Strong Protest' Over U.S. Veto

JN2005151795 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 20 May 95 pp 1, 7

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by staff reporter P. V. Vivekanand]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Amman — Jordan on Friday brushed aside an Israeli refusal to launch immediate negotiations with Palestinians on the status of Jerusalem and said the Kingdom was expecting a Moroccan envoy here to advance efforts to convene an Arab summit to discuss the Jewish state's seizure of land in Arab East Jerusalem.

The comments by Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti came amid reports from Rabat, Morocco, that

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an Arab summit could be held as early as next week in Casablanca, but it was not immediately known who would attend.

Jordan has said it would attend any Arab meeting in line with its policy of participating in any forum that would discuss issues of common concern to the Arab World.

Mr. al-Kabariti also said Friday Jordan had lodged a "strong protest" with the U.S. over the American veto late Wednesday of a Security Council resolution on Israel's confiscation of land.

The protest was made in a meeting Mr. al-Kabariti held with the U.S. ambassador here. The foreign minister also met with the envoys here of France, Britain and Russia and expressed Jordan's appreciation of their support for the draft resolution.

Mr. al-Kabariti said Friday that Jordan found it "irrational and illogical" for the United States to reject congressional moves to shift the American embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and then "take a 180 degree turn" and veto the draft resolution that censured Israel for grabbing Arab land in the holy city.

"We appreciate the American administration's stand on the proposed embassy move and welcome the statement they (the administration) made on the issue," Mr. al-Kabariti told the JORDAN TIMES. "But it does not make logic for us to see the U.S. vetoing the resolution which essentially centered around the same issue — Jerusalem's status."

The foreign minister brushed aside an Israeli rejection of immediate negotiations with the Palestinians on the final status of Jerusalem and said Jordan would press ahead with its demand that the issue be brought forward in the Israeli-Palestinian talks.

"From the very beginning Jordan had expressed strong reservation over the delayed negotiations on Jerusalem among other things in the agreement," Mr. al-Kabariti said, referring to the Oslo accords between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The Oslo accords which was formulated as an interim autonomy agreement that Israel and the PLO signed in Washington in September 1993, put off negotiations on Jerusalem until two years after the launch of Palestinian autonomy.

Jordan had demanded that negotiations on Jerusalem be brought forward immediately after Israel announced its plans to seize 53 hectares of land in Arab East Jerusalem, Mr. al-Kabariti noted.

The Palestinians picked up the cue and demanded Thursday that negotiations be launched immediately on the final status of the holy city.

But Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said Friday that "What must be done now is to carry out what we agreed" in the autonomy accords.

"Jerusalem will be on the agenda once we shall start the negotiations about a permanent solution," Mr. Peres told Israel Television's English service.

"For the daily issues we have an informal channel where the Palestinians can raise any question they have in mind, not the question of Jerusalem but questions in Jerusalem," he said.

Mr. al-Kabariti said: "We do not accept the Israeli stand, and we believe that immediate negotiations on the status of Jerusalem could provide the answer to the current impasse."

The situation has gone "too far" to be left aside for "final status" negotiations, he added.

The foreign minister said 'Abd-al-Hadi Abu-Talib, a special representative of Morocco's King Hassan II, was expected in Amman on Sunday with a message from the Moroccan monarch to His Majesty King Husayn.

"The message, we believe, will deal with the ongoing moves to convene an urgent Arab summit and advance the efforts to have Arab leaders meet at the highest level to discuss such a crucial issue as Jerusalem" said the foreign minister.

He said it was too early to speculate on the precise date and venue of the summit.

Asked what Jordan intended to do next to counter the Israeli land seizure after the American veto of the Security Council resolution, Mr. al-Kabariti said: "We plan to coordinate our efforts with the Arab states."

The foreign minister declined to be specific on Jordan's views of what options the Arab League had to force Israel to reverse its planned land seizure.

Mr. Abu-Talib is among several Moroccan representatives now touring Arab states to sound out their leaders on convening an Arab summit. [passage omitted]

House Committee Chairman Terms U.S. Veto 'Shameful'

JN2005102295 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 20 May 95 pp 1, 29

[Report by Mamduh Hawamidah]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman — Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nusur, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee at the House of Representatives, has strongly attacked the new U.S. veto, which obstructed the issuance of a Security Council resolution calling on Israel not to expropriate

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lands in Jerusalem. In a statement to AL-RA'Y Dr. al-Nusur said: The new U.S. veto represents a serious setback in U.S. prestige and the peace process. It is the first veto the United States has used in the face of 14 votes representing world conscience.

The chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee described the U.S. stand as "shameful," adding that as a result of this stand America has trapped itself in solitary confinement, that is, the cage of Zionist administration.

Dr. al-Nusur added: The United States, which is the only superpower which controls the new world order, is acting now as it acted in the era of polarization which prevailed the during the Cold War. He said: Furthermore, in this stand, the United States has damaged its role as a sponsor and partner in the peace process, lost its competence to play the role of a fair broker, and violated the framework of the Madrid conference which it drew.

Dr. al-Nusur noted that the United States offended the spirit of justice and morality when it granted the Jewish refugees lands, which they do not own but were stolen from their owners who became refugees. He said: Thus, the United States has added a new evidence that the peaceful solution is not fair, comprehensive, or durable.

Daily: U.S. Veto Continuation of 'Old Policy'

JN2005101795 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
20 May 95 pp 1, 29

[Editorial: "The New U.S. Veto is a Continuation of an Old Policy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. veto against the unanimity of the 14 UN Security Council members, which was used to abort the draft resolution on occupied Jerusalem last Wednesday [17 May], reopens the Arab wounds that U.S. foreign policy has opened in every organ of the Arab body, which is already full of wounds. We had imagined that these wounds would be healed by Washington's sponsorship of the peace process in the region.

Following the Madrid conference, the Arab negotiator imagined that Washington will adopt a balanced and neutral stand toward both the Arab and Israeli negotiators. The Arab negotiator used to criticize the United States for its negative stand and insistence on not interfering in the bilateral negotiations, except procedurally to facilitate these negotiations if they stumble. The Arab negotiator has always called for reactivating the role of the U.S. side as a partner in the peace process, not an observer.

This is why the Arab negotiator's shock was great and strong when Washington recently decided to use all its weight and to interfere for the first time in one of the most complicated and sensitive issues by using the veto against the Palestinian, Arab, Islamic, and international unanimity. Observers believe that this step is unprecedented since the end of the Cold War.

Washington used to justify its foreign policy toward Israel by facts related to the Cold War. However, this war is over, and Washington is now the only superpower in the world. It also used to justify its bias toward Israel by saying that some Arab regimes are socialist and hostile to the United States. However, all Arab regimes have opted for a market economy. All these Arab regimes, even those besieged by the United States, look forward to promoting or normalizing their relations with the United States. It also used to justify its biased policy by using the Israeli stick to protect its vital oil interests in the region. However, the largest part of Arab oil is now under its control, and the rest of it is besieged and waiting for its control. Its Arab sticks have also become many following the second Gulf war, and become more obedient. At the same time, Israel has become stronger by its own nuclear power.

Washington used to justify its bias toward Israel by claiming that it wants to protect Israel's security. However, Israel has indisputably become the major power in the region. It also justified this bias by using the state of war between the Arabs and Israel as a pretext. However, all Arab states now seek to achieve peace with Israel.

The international and regional developments and changes have refuted and forfeited all the justifications of U.S. foreign policy's bias toward Israel. So, why has this bias continued? The new U.S. veto is a continuation of an old policy which must be changed.

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Al-Hariri Asked To Form New Government

NC2105163695 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1628 GMT 21 May 95

[Statement issued by the General Directorate of the Presidential Office in B'abda on 21 May — read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] After his consultations with Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri following the outcome of the parliamentary consultations that were officially conveyed to the president, President Ilyas al-Hirawi summoned Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri at 1900 on 21 May and asked him to form the new government in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph II of Article 53 of the Constitution.

Gives Statement, Answers Questions

NC2105195495 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 May 95

[News conference by Prime Minister-Designate Rafiq al-Hariri with unidentified correspondents following a meeting with President Ilyas al-Hirawi at the Presidential Palace in B'abda on 21 May — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Hariri] His Excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi, following consultations with parliamentary groups, honored me today with the task of forming a new government. I thank his excellency for this valued trust and thank the venerable Chamber of Deputies for the great confidence that they have placed in me, as reflected by the president's consultations.

I would like to affirm that this confidence must inevitably express itself in a new government which — as we want — will be able to handle all constitutional tasks and deadlines and the domestic and foreign requirements of the current stage, particularly those pertaining to the liberation of our territories in southern and western al-Biqa'. The Lebanese people have made their choice to resist the Israeli occupation, to adhere to parallel progress on the Lebanese and Syrian negotiating tracks, and to coordinate and cooperate with fraternal Syria.

While the government's performance in the period just ended was beset with some political flaws, the next stage does not permit any laxity on this matter. Hence, we find it imperative to form a government of solidarity and cohesion that safeguards public liberties as guaranteed by the Constitution and performs its role fully in remedying the social crisis and consolidating a stable political, economic, and development process. This government must also secure favorable circumstances for effective cabinet work that will rise to the level of the challenges found in every sphere of activity.

We are looking forward to a government that seeks to provide the stability that the Lebanese wish to have and that does not have a transitional character. We will seek to affirm these facts in cooperation with the Chamber of Deputies and by obtaining its vote of confidence.

We regard the Chamber of Deputies' declared wish to ask me to form the new government as the foundation on which we will rely to continue our work.

I am confident that our call for stability will find responsive ears in all the institutions and organizations that seek Lebanon's revival, progress, and its protection from the biases that are contrary to the process of national accord, economic growth, and reconstruction.

The process of stability will not be halted. We place a very great trust in our sincere people who have again conferred their confidence in me. I pledge to them that I will fulfill their hopes in safeguarding the achievements already made and continuing our efforts to rebuild the state and give fresh impetus to the process of economic development and reconstruction.

I again thank his excellency the president. I again thank the venerable Chamber of Deputies, notably His Excellency Speaker Nabih Birri, the various parliamentary blocs, and the gentlemen deputies who approved my selection to form the new government. I emphasize my adherence to cooperation and coordination among all the country's constitutional institutions, particularly the Chamber of Deputies, to strengthen the state and entrench the stability that all of us wish for.

[Undentified correspondent] Your Excellency, when will you begin forming the new government and when will you complete it?

[Al-Hariri] Tomorrow. Tomorrow morning. I have agreed with Speaker Birri to begin consultations at the Chamber of Deputies at about 1030. Before that, of course, I will visit the former prime ministers to consult with them.

[Correspondent] What kind of makeup will the new government have?

[Al-Hariri] Too early to say. I cannot tell before the consultations are carried out.

[Correspondent] Will we have a period of stability after the recent shakeup?

[Al-Hariri] Doubtlessly, the country is moving toward a period of calm stability. I do not think that we will face any problems.

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Ex-Officials React to al-Hariri's Resignation

NC2005180695 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 20 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Former Prime Minister] 'Umar Karami made a statement today in which he expressed his belief that the new government is a no-solution solution, and that problems cannot be resolved by a magic wand, because the condition of the treasury cannot withstand pressure for two weeks until the new government is formed. The new government is expected to be formed next week, after which the problems that faced the current government will reemerge. Karami said that we are approaching a period of five difficult months. Three weeks will be lost between consultations, appointment, and vote of confidence. Therefore, we will be returning to square one; no one has a magic wand. [passage omitted]

[Former Chamber of Deputies Speaker] Husayn al-Husayni excused himself from participation in the current consultations. He criticized the theater piece of the ebb and flow, the resignation of the prime minister, the announcement of the pre-prepared times for the consultations so quickly without giving the members of parliament or blocs the needed time, and forming a majority based on a ministerial program in light of which the appointed prime minister will be named. [passage omitted]

Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Michel al-Murr described the atmosphere as positive. He met with Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri in Quraytim and expressed his belief that the government must be cohesive and supportive. [passage omitted]

Al-Hirawi Accepts Invitation to Arab Summit

NC2105170795 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 21 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi received a message today from King Hassan II of Morocco. The message was delivered by Moroccan envoy Abdelhadi Boutaleb, who visited the B'abda Palace this afternoon in the company of the Moroccan ambassador to Lebanon.

The message includes an invitation to the summit that will discuss Israel's expropriation of lands in Eastern Jerusalem.

President al-Hirawi expressed his full readiness for Lebanese participation in the summit.

Al-Asad's Son Bashshar Arrives 'Unexpectedly'

NC2105105395 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 21 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Bashshar al-Asad, son of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, arrived unexpectedly at the Presidential Palace at about 1300 today and immediately met President Ilyas al-Hirawi. The meeting is in progress. Major General Ibrahim Safi, commander of the Syrian forces operating in Lebanon; Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, chief of security and intelligence with the Syrian forces; and Roy al-Hirawi are attending the meeting.

Meets With al-Hirawi, Departs

NC2105131495 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1300 GMT 21 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] There was a meeting between President Ilyas al-Hirawi and the Syrian president's son, Dr. Bashshar al-Asad, who arrived at the presidential palace at 1300 today. Dr. al-Asad and his delegation left B'abda Palace without making a statement.

Role for Baker in U.S. Middle East Policy Seen

MM1905122095 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 19 May 95 p 17

[Article by Khayrallah Khayrallah: "Veto... Naturally!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. veto at the Security Council fits into the natural context of the development of relations between President Clinton's administration and Yitzhaq Rabin's government. In fact it is the natural outcome of the current type of relationship between the two sides, which makes it strange for a question such as the following to be asked: Why does Rabin not listen to what Clinton and Secretary of State Warren Christopher tell him?

Perhaps discovering that the Israeli prime minister does not listen to Clinton or Christopher — and even if he listens to them, the U.S will not dare say he does — leads us to deal with the main question: What does Israel want from the peace process? Is it really seeking a stable Middle East, or is it seeking to achieve certain aims inside the United States itself and to leave the Middle East lumbered with its problems, which cannot be solved without a peace settlement based on a minimum of justice.

Actually the confiscation of new lands in east Jerusalem is causing a problem for both the Palestinian National Authority and Jordan at the same time. It is also providing ammunition for those opposed to peace, whether in Gaza and the West Bank or in Jordan itself.

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It is a real embarrassment for the Jordanian Government and the National Authority, which both have dealt with the issue with considerable flexibility and preferred to continue, rather than sever, the dialogue with Israel. They have also exploited Israeli intransigence to expand the framework of Arab consultations in the hope that the Jerusalem issue might form a basis for an Arab summit to be hosted by King Hassan II.

Israeli intransigence over the Jerusalem issue also reinforces the Syrian view calling for "parallel and equal" security arrangements. Because without a reasonable and acceptable settlement providing a minimum of dignity for those taking part in it, it will not be possible to convince the average person of it. And it would not be surprising if extremist tendencies were to grow at the expense of those advocating reason and realism and working for a better future for the region based on stability in all countries of the region, not just in Israel. In brief, Israel cannot claim that it is seeking peace with Syria while continuing to deal with it after the post-settlement stage as though it were still in a state of war with it.

Yitzhaq Rabin's domestic concerns can be understood. And the domestic position of the Clinton administration, which has to bargain over the Jerusalem issue at the Security Council in order to intercept the Republicans' request to move the [U.S.] Embassy to Jerusalem, can also be understood. But the thing that can be understood most is that Rabin's government seems to be the only party which knows what it wants from Washington. Since it prefers aid to stands such as those being announced by Republicans in Congress. Maybe the only way out for everyone at this stage is for James Baker to return to play a role in U.S. Middle East policy. What the region misses most now is a person like Baker capable of reconciling what Israel wants and what the Arabs want, reviving the U.S. role as an arbiter capable of intervening, not adopting the attitude of "a witness who has seen nothing."

'Faithful Resistance' Announces Death of Member

NC2105120395 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 21 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Faithful Resistance, in a statement today, announced that one of its members was killed in the attack one of its groups carried out yesterday against a South Lebanese Army position in Sujud, in the central sector of the southern security area. The attack was carried out on the first anniversary of the kidnapping of one of the Faithful Resistance leaders, Mustafa al-Dirani, by Israeli troops.

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PLO's Qaddumi Criticizes 'Unfriendly' U.S. Position

JN2105204795 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 21 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, arrived in Damascus this evening on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic.

He was received at Damascus International Airport by Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur, a number of ranking Foreign Ministry officials, and the director of the PLO office in Damascus.

On arrival, Qaddumi made the following statement:

[Begin Qaddumi recording] Damascus is a pan-Arab fortress. Damascus is the party standing firmly in face of the Israeli intransigence and the Israeli contempt for pan-Arab rights. We have come to Damascus from time to time in order to meet with our brothers and officials to discuss pan-Arab issues, the foremost of which is the Palestine question, which is considered the central cause of Damascus and the October revolution.

The recent atrocious Israeli measures and the confiscation of more Palestinian land in Jerusalem have dangerous implications. And after the United States adopted an unfriendly position at the Security Council and used its veto, thus damaging the peace process, we have come to consult with our brothers in Damascus, in the den of pan-Arabism where President Hafiz al-Asad stands with his firmness, wisdom, and balance, adhering to the peace process, but on the just bases that we accepted at Madrid conference.

This visit is very important because Arab coordination and cooperation should be strengthened and Arab differences should be eliminated because the dangers are looming. Damascus and its sister Egypt are playing an important role in this pan-Arab march. We are facing a mini-Arab summit and crucial decisions that should be made in order to preserve Arab rights in Palestine and the other Arab territories. [end recording]

Paper Claims Clinton-al-Shar' Meeting 'Failed'

JN2005103495 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1000 GMT 20 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Syrian press today strongly attacked the U.S. bias toward the Israeli stands, whether they are on the Golan or Jerusalem. Today's AL-THAWRAH says that the meeting held in Washington last Tuesday [16 May] between the U.S. President and the Syrian foreign minister, has failed because the U.S. Administration conveyed to Syria a purely Israeli stand on the demilitarized zone and the security arrangements in Golan. AL-THAWRAH adds that it appeared as if the U.S. Administration has adopted the Israeli viewpoint without exerting any specific endeavor to achieve balance [tawazun] and equality [musawah]. The paper adds that this bias, together with the U.S veto against the Security Council on Jerusalem, have deprived the United States of its objectivity as a fair and neutral partner in the peace process.

Paper Terms U.S. Veto at UN 'Disappointing'

JN2205072895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 22 May 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] The newspaper AL-BA'TH comments on the U.S. veto to block the passage of a draft UN Security Council resolution censuring Israel for confiscating more land in occupied Jerusalem. The paper notes that there is virtual unanimity that the U.S. position, which has robbed Washington of its credibility as an honest broker in the peace process, will also adversely affect the overall peace process one way or another.

The paper adds: Concern for the peace process should have prompted Washington to uphold fairness by rejecting the Israeli measures, as Europe has done. The U.S. position was disappointing, because it was unfair and unbalanced. As a matter of fact, it confirmed that what concerns the United States is to keep Israel happy, and not to promote the achievement of just and comprehensive peace.

AL-BA'TH goes on to say: The new U.S. position came at a completely inappropriate time, particularly since the peace process, as is clear, is experiencing a real crisis due to the Israeli position, which has failed to subscribe to the implementation of the relevant international legitimacy resolutions. Moreover, several international quarters have confirmed that the U.S. position encouraged Israel not only to persist in its opposition to just and comprehensive peace in the region, but also to take further repressive measures.

AL-BA'TH concludes by saying: Rendering the peace process a success, as pledged in the U.S. initiative, requires moves inspired by the invitations to the Madrid conference; that is, there should be adherence to the Madrid conference formula. There should be a commitment to the implementation of the relevant international legitimacy resolutions, and the land-for-peace formula should be upheld. Any violation of this formula could thwart the peace process.

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Daily Calls U.S. Peace Stance 'Total Surprise'

JN2105143795 Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 20 May 95 p 1

[Article by 'Amid Khuli: "Ambiguous Stands"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Two important developments related to the peace process took place last week, signalling a negative shift in the peace process. These two development also make the U.S. stand toward the peace process extremely ambiguous. This stand has been unclear for a long time, but it has now become so biased that the United States has lost its objectivity as an honest and impartial partner.

Some aspects of this U.S. stand are amazing. It is no longer useful to give the usual explanations, which view the Arabs as weak, take them lightly, and show contempt for them more than they explain the background and aspects of U.S. decisions.

The first development is that the United States has conveyed to Syria, through its president and secretary of state, a purely Israeli stand toward security arrangements and demilitarized zones and other related elements, as an Israeli answer to Syria. This answer is rejected in principle because it does not achieve the minimum level that is required of the peace process. In addition, this answer seeks to undermine the declared Syrian principles, based on justice and comprehensiveness which Syria seeks.

It is as if the United States has wholly adopted Israel's view without making any specific effort to achieve balance [tawazun] and equality [musawah] on both sides of the 4 June lines, as Syria demands. This is certainly a basic condition of justice. Without this, peace will be lame and will lack justice and dignity. It will be relinquishment, which is absolutely rejected by Syria.

This has been Syria's condition since the peace process was first launched. Syria has acted on this basis. It is inconceivable that Syria should abandon these basic principles, which relate to national dignity. This is why the U.S. stand has come as a total surprise, without there being any specific stand toward the elements of peace. Therefore, there was a dark shadow — called failure — over the [16 May] meeting between President Clinton and al-Shar'.

This situation has no explanation in political mediation and diplomatic action. This has made the U.S. position very close to that of Israel, to the extent that the two have merged into one, as political analysts put it.

This U.S. position has been accompanied by fiery, feverish statements by Israeli officials after al-Shar's meeting with Clinton. This change poses a great threat to the peace process. It is as if the United States is diffidently going back on its declared commitment to achieve a just and comprehensive peace. There is nothing in the U.S. position that indicates or refers to any commitment.

Israeli Foreign Minister Peres has said that the condition of balance and equality in the security arrangements on the two sides of the line is impossible. Where is peace, then? What peace is it if Syria's adherence to justice and right and equal measures is impossible, according to Israel's logic? The United States has been supporting this Israeli logic. This is clear in its stand toward security measures, as well as in this serious shift in the use of the veto to defeat a universal resolution condemning Israel for its seizure of Arab lands in Jerusalem.

Do you see this U.S. double-standard allowing Israel to defy the world, the Arabs, and peace? When the United States does not adopt a position on the issue of balance and equality, this means that it is against them in practice. This encourages Israel to reject these principles. Consequently, it will reject the principles of justice and comprehensiveness. There can be no peace without this, which is the basis of the U.S. initiative and the declared U.S. commitment to the peace process. This is a self-evident, indisputable fact.

It is not strange, therefore, that the Israeli leaders should make such fiery, provocative statements when the United States used the veto in favor of Israel for the first time since the end of the Cold War. The strange thing is that this veto, which is the second development, was used to support the seizure of Arab lands in Jerusalem. The Americans say the veto is meant to prevent the international community and the Security Council from interfering in the peace process. What logic!!

Resolution 242 was originally issued by the Security Council in 1967. It now forms the basis of the peace process, and consequently, the basis of the U.S. initiative. The veto practically revokes Resolution 242 under the U.S. pretext of preventing the Security Council from interfering.

When Israel rejects the principle of balance and equality in the arrangements on both sides of the line with Syria, this means it rejects peace and that it views the peace process as a temporary and transient thing. This also means that Israel is concealing totally different intentions. Otherwise, why should it reject balance and equality as long as peace will be established? In addition, Israel possesses a nuclear arsenal and other weapons of mass destruction and can depend on the U.S. arsenal and political decisions, which are now totally in its favor. Why, then, this insistence on rejecting balance

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and equality in the security arrangements and measures with Syria?

The reason for this is that aggression and expansion are in control of Israel's mentality. Is there any other explanation?

Radio Criticizes U.S. Support for Israeli Positions

JN2105155895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1144 GMT 21 May 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Whether the expectations about a new regional tour by the U.S. secretary of state are true or not, it must be emphasized that the peace process is now complicated and that the international efforts, led by those of the U.S. cosponsor, have thus far not achieved tangible results.

The reasons for this complexity are numerous, led by the intransigent Israeli position and Israel's refusal to achieve a just and comprehensive peace through the door of international legitimacy and UN resolutions. This door was opened by the U.S. initiative in order to achieve peace in this region.

The Israeli intransigence was not just confined to rejecting international legitimacy but also included the pursuit of an individual course that gives priority to Israeli interests. These interests will continue to be aggressive and domineering as long as they are associated with rebellion against the bases and principles of the peace initiative and as long as they continues to adhere to occupation and seek hegemony over the resources of the entire region by imposing terms to achieve a fragile peace that does not have any of the elements of durability.

Moreover, Israel has further complicated the peace process by expropriating Arab lands in occupied Jerusalem. This step, which could torpedo the peace process, was followed by the U.S. veto, brought back the use of double standards in addressing one of the most important issues of this age.

A just peace, and the subsequent achievement of security and stability in the Middle East, are now a regional and international demand and necessity. To achieve such peace, new methods that are completely different from the traditional methods must be employed. This will be the task of anyone announcing that he will carry out serious and persistent efforts to achieve peace.

The equation is now clear: One party claims that it wants peace but does not couple this claim with any action, whereas the other party has given the peace efforts every possible opportunities after having announced its commitment to the peace initiative.

Has anyone heard an Israeli announcement about such a commitment? The U.S. efforts have not thus far stopped. Whether or not these efforts will be take the form of a new tour by Christopher, the peace process is now complicated. A solution lies in inventing new methods, the least of which should be to secure Israel's commitment to implementing the resolutions of international legitimacy and not supporting Israeli positions that are obstructing the peace process.

Radio Says Israel Undermines Peace Process

JN2005071795 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 20 May 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the headline "The Responsibility of the International Community," TISHRIN discusses the Middle East peace process. The paper stresses that peace in this region is impossible without Israel's full withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 borders and recognition of the legitimate Palestinian rights.

Discussing Israel's security pretexts and refusal to withdraw, TISHRIN says that Israel believes that its security can be ensured only at the expense of Syria's security and through the continued occupation of Syrian territory. This, the paper says, clearly means rejection of the UN Security Council resolutions that have been recognized as the basis of peace in the region.

TISHRIN says that if any party has the right to demand security guarantees, it must be the Arabs. This is because Israel is the aggressor and occupier that continues to confiscate Arab lands up to this moment and to set up settlements on them in contravention of all international conventions, agreements, and resolutions.

TISHRIN says that Israel would not have placed all those obstacles before the peace process and would not have frequently defied the resolutions of international resolutions and the international community had it not been aware that it is safe from accountability and punishment.

TISHRIN says: If world politicians, including U.S. politicians, acknowledge that settlement activity is the antithesis of peace, then Israel's insistence on confiscating lands and on settlement expansion has no objective but to undermine the peace process and the credibility of the sponsor of the peace process, for the veto is an explicit departure from the role of a fair and impartial partner to which Washington publicly declared commitment.

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Concluding, TISHRIN says: The question that is posed now is this: Until when will Israel tamper with the future of peace? Is not the international community and its influential parties aware of Israel's attempts to undermine the peace process and waste all the efforts that have been exerted over the past years?

On its part, AL-THAWRAH discusses the requirements of peace in the region. It stresses that the international community is fully convinced that Israel is obstructing the peace process. This has been clearly proven by the UN Security Council's unanimous denunciation of Israel for confiscating Palestinian Arab lands in the occupied West Bank and Jerusalem. A resolution to this effect has been obstructed by the United States.

AL-THAWRAH explains that Israel's obstruction of the peace process has been proved through its recent U.S.-supported stands, especially its refusal to join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and its measures which contravene the UN resolutions and the principles of international law. Most conspicuous among those measures has been the confiscation of Palestinian lands, particularly in Jerusalem and its area with the aim of Judaizing it by changing its Arab features and demographic situation.

Concluding its comment, AL-THAWRAH urges the United States to avoid supporting Israel's intransigent stands and to compel Tel Aviv to comply with the requirements of peace under the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, all of which are based on the land for peace equation, which specifically means Israel's full withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and its return to the 4 June 1967 borders and approval that security arrangements related to this withdrawal be equal [mutasawiyah] and balanced [mutawazinah] on both sides of those borders.

Minister Inaugurates Gas Project in al-Hasakah

JN2105162395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 21 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Under President Hafiz al-Asad's patronage, Dr. Engineer Nadir Nabulsi, minister of oil and mineral resources, today inaugurated the Tall 'Awdah-al-Suwaydiyah gas project.

Attending the inauguration ceremony were al-Hasakah Governor Subhi Harb, the brigadier general commander of police in the governorate of al-Hasakah, the comrade members of the Ba'th Party branch, the director general of the Syrian Oil Company [SOC], the directors of the oil fields in the governorate, and those concerned with the project.

The minister and his companions acquainted themselves with the project's components, including pipes, units to dry and separate the gas, and the room for monitoring and controlling production. He also listened to a detailed briefing on the mechanisms at work in the gas station and its production capacity, as well as the means for continuing work on the project.

Dr. Nabulsi said this project is one of the large gas projects accomplished and made available for investment by virtue of the kind care of President Hafiz al-Asad. [passage omitted]

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Afghanistan

Rabbani Addresses Tajik Peace Talk Delegates

LD2005233695 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1625 GMT 20 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Announcer] Dear listeners of Radio Afghanistan, as you know, esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan [ISA], gave a function in the garden of the presidential palace on 18 May in honor of esteemed Emomali Rakhmanov, president of the Republic of Tajikistan, and esteemed Sayed Abdullo Nuri, leader of the Islamic Movement of Tajikistan and the leader of the opposition forces of that country. At the function speeches were delivered by esteemed Rabbani, esteemed Rakhmanov, and esteemed Nuri. First we draw your attention to the speech of the esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the ISA.

[Begin Rabbani recording] In the name of God the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted]

Indeed the Muslims are brothers, establish peace among them, fear God to receive deliverance.

Dear brother, Your Excellency Emomali Rakhmanov, president of the Republic of Tajikistan; dear brother Sayed Abdullo Nuri, leader of the Islamic Movement; dear guests, peace and blessing of God on you. I am pleased to welcome you to Kabul, the capital of the land of the Afghans, on behalf of myself and the people of Afghanistan. Afghanistan and Tajikistan are two neighboring countries which follow a similar faith. They have strong historic links, friendship, mutual understanding and trust, and good relations in cultural, social, ideological, and political fields. Relations and fraternal links between the people of the two countries have been established over the centuries and in the pages of our common history. The expansion and deepening of the links and relations under the conditions that are dominant in the world guarantees the mutual interests of our people and countries. They are effective in the socioeconomic development of the region. The Islamic State of Afghanistan, whose efforts and measures are concentrating on peace in our country, the region, and the world, is making its best efforts to establish a lasting, confident, acceptable, and all-out peace in the Islamic Afghanistan and neighboring countries.

The recent developments in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, that have come about as a result of the bravery of our free people, have not only led to peace and security in the city of Kabul, but also have brought about stability of the situation in most parts of our country. Now the people of Afghanistan, along with the Islamic state of Afghanistan, in an atmosphere of understanding and solidarity and confidence in the future, conduct bravely the reconstruction of their war afflicted country. In such an atmosphere of peace, the consolidation of friendly relations and the expansion of mutually beneficial cooperation between Afghanistan and the neighbors, including the Republic of Tajikistan, rest at the center of the attention of the people and the state of Afghanistan. We are confident that in the light of the positive developments in the interest of peace and the stability of the situation, suitable opportunities come about for the implementation of the agreements that have been concluded between the two countries.

Your Excellencies, the people of Afghanistan sincerely want the restoration of peace and the removal of misunderstanding in the neighboring and fraternal country of Tajikistan. The people of Afghanistan strongly believe in the principles of good neighborliness and mutual respect for the independence, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity of countries. Peace is a need of our societies. You will share my views that tension in the fraternal country of Tajikistan is not in the interest of either party or side. Your beautiful country will definitely, today or tomorrow, achieve complete peace. Eventually the dispute will end, because it is the wish of the state and the people of Tajikistan to live in peace and brotherhood. [Words indistinct] are those who take the first step for peace. Peace has some requirements. If all requirements of peace are there, but a political will for peace is lacking, then hostility, division, and a gap will endure. Fortunately, your trip towards peace has this very important and valuable condition. Your unilateral declaration to go anywhere to reach a permanent solution attests to the existence of such a political will with both sides for national understanding and finally peace and reconciliation.

The Kabul talks crystallize the common wishes of the state of Tajikistan and the opposing forces to restore peace and to achieve national understanding in your free and lovable country.

We have been pleased by the manifestation of readiness and inclination by the two sides during the talks for the restoration of peace in the Republic of Tajikistan, and consider it a sign of the existence of propitious capabilities for the solution of problems in the beautiful, historic, and magnificent Tajikistan. It will be a great honor for the people and the state of Afghanistan and for myself personally for Kabul, this beating heart of the continent of Asia, to be a venue to achieve an understanding for peace in the fraternal country of Tajikistan. A peace which will enlighten all parts of your country with fraternity and tranquillity. This will be a light that will shine on the hearts and will imbue them with compatriotic love, will bring the coming generations together to help the development and progress of their

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country. War and insecurity are the ugly phenomena that can be eliminated by the goodwill of the human beings themselves. You can turn them into peace, security, and national unity. I pray to God to make this visit of yours an auspicious one and to bear historic results. What we can present to you in this connection is a sincere and fraternal love. These sentiments emanate from the heart of each and everyone of our people. Wishing success for you in this great test, wishing peace and security in our countries, wishing the consolidation of friendly and fraternal relations and cooperation and good neighborliness between the Republic of Tajikistan and the Islamic State of Afghanistan, and finally wishing lasting peace in the region and the world. These words said and I ask God for forgiveness for me and you, indeed He is merciful and forgiving. [preceding sentence in Arabic] [end recording]

Taleban Goal Said Aimed at Freeing Afghanistan

95LH0112A London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic
5 Mar 95 pp 16-19

[Article by Ahmad Ibrahim Mahmud: "The Shadowy Taleban Movement Changes the Equation: Its Goal Is Ridding Afghanistan of the Mujahedin and Excluding Them From Power"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The civil war in Afghanistan has recently begun to escalate again. This time the new escalation is connected with the emergence of a political power that suddenly has begun to influence events: the Taleban movement, composed of Islamic law [shari'ah] students led by Maulavi Mohammed Omar. In a short period of time, this group has been able to alter the balance of power in the country's internal conflict in its favor and control no less than a third of the country. It has also come to dominate the scene, the most influential party determining the political situation in Afghanistan.

In essence, the Taleban movement is an attempt to end the state of bloody conflict among the Afghan factions by disarming them or destroying their military power and expelling them from the political arena. The movement considers them "criminal gangs," responsible for the Afghan civil war's having continued for over three years, as it is well known that the Afghan mujahedin groups had succeeded at the beginning of 1992 in eliminating the Marxist Najibullah regime and capturing the capital of Kabul. However, the struggle for power quickly spread among the mujahedin leaders, even before they entered the capital. The conflict has been focused since then between Jam'iyat-e Eslami leader Borhanoddin Rabbani and Hezb-e Eslami leader Golbuddin Hekmatyar. The struggle between these two groups resulted in extremely violent armed confrontations that caused the deaths of tens of thousands of Afghans. All the efforts to end the conflict failed, even though a formula to divide power in Afghanistan was adopted, according to which the position of head of state was given to Rabbani, with Hekmatyar taking the position of head of the government. The other cabinet positions were divided among the various Afghan factions. What increased the severity of the armed struggle in Afghanistan was that it was always being fed by the social, tribal, and sectarian conflicts.

Consequently, the emergence of the Taleban movement was tantamount to a total revolt against the status quo in Afghanistan, an attempt to change it radically. The Taleban movement appeared suddenly in the political and military arena in Afghanistan; the first mention of it in the news media came in mid-November of last year when it was able to put an end to the hijacking of a Pakistani relief convoy that one of the Afghan factions in the southwestern province of Kandahar had detained. The convoy had been heading to the Islamic republics in Central Asia. From that time forward, the movement's power and influence has been growing continuously, beginning when it took control of the province of Kandahar, which it made the jumping-off place for the rest of the neighboring provinces. It focused on capturing the provinces with Pushtun majorities and was in fact able to take control of approximately seven provinces in southwestern Afghanistan, more than a third of the country, and even reached the outskirts of Kabul itself.

Growth and Development

To a large extent, the Taleban movement has able to cloak itself in ambiguity and secrecy since its arrival on the scene. The true size of its military and personnel strength is not at all clear, nor are the sources of its military and political support, its organizational structure, its administrative cadres, or its political/military goals. In this context, nothing is known of the movement except that it is essentially made up of students of Islamic law who studied in the schools of the Association of Islamic Ulema, led by Sheikh Fazl Rahman. They received their religious education in the association's schools in all parts of Pakistan. The movement is led by Maulavi Mohammad Omar; its military wing by Mashur Jah. According to some estimates, the movement possesses about 200 combat tanks and 20 combat aircraft and armed helicopters, with about 25,000 soldiers. Other estimates say that the movement is benefitting from the military experience of more than 1,600 Afghan soldiers who served in the ranks of the Afghan ground and air forces during the Soviet occupation and the rule of the Marxist regime,

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with these soldiers supervising the movement's war strategy planning and execution.

There have been conflicting estimates of the Taleban movement's sources of military and political support. Some say that the United States is supporting the movement with the aim of blocking the Iranian advance in the region and to rid southwest Asia of the cultivation of narcotics and opium, which the U.S. administration considers a grave danger. Others say that Pakistan is assisting the movement in order to secure its southeastern and southwestern borders, in addition to its desire to put an end to the bloody fighting among the warlords of the Afghan mujahedin factions who have been fighting among themselves for more than three years. At the same time, some analyses have speculated that a group of Afghan merchants is financing the movement and giving them material aid in an attempt to put an end to the armed conflict in Afghanistan. In addition, on the military/field level, the movement has been able to build a network of alliances with some of the other Afghan movements to reinforce its military position. It has in fact succeeded in this with Maulavi Sadiqullah, who belongs to the Harakat-e Enqelab-e Eslami, led by Maulana Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi.

Perhaps the most important and sensitive aspect of the Taleban movement is its adoption of political views based on foundations at complete variance with the general concept of the political structure in Afghanistan. The movement represents a revolution against the current political situation in the country, in which leaders of the mujahedin factions control the reins of power, each of them trying to obtain power by any means. Thus, the Taleban movement is trying to alter the political equation in Afghanistan completely through three main elements that represent the general political framework of its activities:

1. Calling for dismantling the traditional political infrastructure in Afghanistan through a position of extreme opposition to the mujahedin factions, considering them "criminal gangs" who bear complete responsibility for continuation of the civil war even though three years have passed since the lackey Marxist regime was toppled, along with calling for these factions not to have any share in power;

2. Disarming all the Afghan mujahedin factions, based on the fact that the dramatic spread of weapons among the mujahedin groups was the cause of the war's continuation, which requires extreme firmness in organizing and implementing a wide-ranging disarmament operation in Afghanistan;

3. Adopting a three-part plan to resolve the Afghan conflict, based on: forming a true Islamic government composed of committed Islamist figures, basing this government on regional representation of the Afghan provinces, not on representation of parties or factions, and calling for the Taleban movement to assume [responsibility for] the security of the capital, Kabul.

Within this framework, the real challenge faced by the Taleban movement at the current time is the question of whether to take control of Kabul. The present political stalemate in Afghanistan will require the Taleban movement to take some action, especially since it has in fact taken over the strategic areas surrounding the capital, as previously mentioned. However, its attempting to take control of the capital will involve it in a fierce battle against the forces of the Jam'iyat-e Eslami, led by experienced soldier and former Minister of Defense Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, which might exhaust both sides at the same time. This would give Golboddin Hekmatyar the opportunity to eliminate both of them. If the movement just continues to encircle the capital, its credibility will be called into question, and the likelihood of progress here would be dependent to a large extent on what happens with the current settlement process being brokered by the United Nations and local Afghan leaders.

Dimensions of the Situation

The Taleban movement has achieved rapid military victories in Afghanistan and has currently been able to reinforce its grip on the strategic positions around the capital, Kabul. This military situation was the result of a sequence of military actions undertaken by the movement. It began with the province of Kandahar and has recently been able to take control of most of the southern Pushtun provinces. It forced the powerful Afghan leader Golboddin Hekmatyar to leave his stronghold in the Chahar Asiab area south of the capital, which the movement then took over as its military leadership's headquarters. Hekmatyar was forced to flee to the Sarobi area, 60 km east of Kabul, where he gathered a force of 1,000 fighters from the various political parties allied with him to confront the Taleban fighters, if they should decide to move toward eastern Afghanistan.

In the meantime, United Nations representatives in Afghanistan were working to accelerate a plan to transfer power from President Rabbani to the transitional government that the United Nations had formed. In mid-February, international mediator Mahmoud Mestiri called on the Taleban movement to refrain from storming the capital in return for being allowed to participate in the to-be-formed government. Some Afghan entities also called for a general meeting that would include all the Afghan political forces in order to agree on formation of a national unity government in which all the influential figures and forces would be represented and

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which would be charged with organizing general elections in all parts of the country. However, the leaders of the Taleban movement refused to participate in the proposed government, characterizing the Afghan mujahedin factions as criminal gangs. The movement also refused to commit to not attacking Kabul and renewed its conditions for refraining from the attack: formation of a true Islamic government on the basis of Islamic representation, with [responsibility for] the capital's security being turned over to neutral Islamic forces, which threw considerable doubt on the possibility of carrying out the plan to transfer power from President Bourhanoddin Rabbani to the proposed national unity government. These developments were also accompanied by a retreat on the part of other Afghan factional leaders from their commitments to form the national unity government. President Rabbani became the slowest to welcome the international plan so as not to appear as though he had been coerced into it by international and domestic pressures. 'Abdol Rasul Sayyaf and Sheikh Yunes Khalis also announced their rejection of the government formed by the United Nations and accused the Taleban movement of working to serve UN plots in Afghanistan.

The Taleban movement, for its part, wanted to reinforce its military position, so it continued to advance toward southeastern Afghanistan and was able to take control of the Paktika province, which had been under the control of allies of President Rabbani. The movement also escalated its threats to resort to attacking Kabul unless the Rabbani forces withdrew from it and were disarmed.

In addition to this, some ambiguity surrounded the position of Uzbek leader 'Abdol Rashid Dostam, who, according to some news agencies, had threatened to establish an independent state under the name, Southern Turkmenistan, if the Taleban movement mounted any attack on his forces. He subsequently denied this, however, affirming his support of Afghan unity.

Thus, the Afghan political and military map has become much more complicated than before, with the collapse of the international peace plan that Mahmoud Mestiri had worked on for more than a year and the refusal of President Rabbani to renounce power as had been proposed. His excuse was that it would be difficult to resign under these complex circumstances and without specific conditions, let alone the fact that there was no government to which he could surrender power. At the same time, the various Afghan factions were still maintaining wildly conflicting positions on putting an end to the country's armed conflict. In the midst of all of this stood the Taleban movement, as the new and most active variable on the Afghan political scene, with its refusal to participate in the government of "onlookers" formed by the United Nations and its demand to take over power and authority in the country itself.

It, therefore, seems apparent that one of the most important aspects of the complicated path of politico-military interactions in Afghanistan is the illogic of efforts toward a peaceful resolution of the conflict and their remoteness from the political realities and the true balance of power. The UN plan for achieving peace in the country focused on forming an impartial government that would not include any of the traditional personalities of the Afghan struggle. It was difficult to imagine that the mujahedin factions would agree to such a plan with the distance from power it involved, even for a limited transitional period to pave the way for general elections. In addition to this, the nature of political interaction continued to revolve around the dangerous armed struggle for power among the factional leaders and their aversion to compromising to achieve peace, which turned into an inescapable vicious circle. This led to the emergence of new political powers to put an end to this deteriorating situation, specifically the Taleban movement. The emergence of this new force was, of course, supported by domestic and foreign forces with the aim of escaping from the vicious circle. Consequently, the situation in Afghanistan has become more fluid, whether from the standpoint of balance of power, the network of alliances, or the proposed political plans, which opens the door to all possibilities for war or peace in Afghanistan.

India

'Dissident Convention' Called 'Grand Success'

'Prominent' Legislators Attend

BK2005131195 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 20 May 95 pp 1, 20

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, May 19 — If the success of the dissidents convention at the Talkatora Stadium today was to be measured by the number of MPs, MLAs [Member of Legislative Assembly] and AICC [All India Congress Committee] members who attended the convention, then it failed to kick off the mark but going by the crowds the convention attracted from all over the country, it was a grand success, by all standards.

It was not that no new faces had appeared at the rally but the fact remained that not more than 21 members of parliament, nearly two scores of MLAs and about 100 AICC members came to attend the convention along with large contingents of Congress workers from their respective States.

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Mr Arjun Singh and Mr N.D. Tiwari, however, remained the star attractions at the convention. The other prominent members of Parliament, who appeared on the dais were Mr Shiv Charan Mathur, Mr P.R. Kumaramangalam, Mr R. Prabhu, Mr V. Ramamurthy, Mr M.L. Fotedar, Mr K.N. Singh, Mrs Bibbu Kumari, Mr Swaroop Upadhaya, Mr Devaraj Nayak, Mr J.S. Brar, Mr Jai Mohan, Mr Dalbir Singh, besides others.

It was, however, the State of Tamil Nadu, which gave a surprise to the organisers of the convention, when Mr Ramamurthy walked in with a contingent of six members of Parliament and 20 MLAs, along with Congress Committees out of 27 DCCs [District Congress Committee]. Next in line were 18 MLAs and MLCs from Uttar Pradesh [UP]. The sole PCC [Pradesh Congress Committee] president who attended the convention was from Nagaland.

Even the State of Haryana was represented at the convention, where Mr Birinder Singh, MLA and dissident leader appeared along with Mr Ram Prakash and Mr Chhattarpal Singh. Mr Singh, who is considered close to the ministerialists is reported to have joined hands with the dissidents just in order to show his annoyance against the leadership which has ignored the dissidents demand for change of leadership in Haryana.

From Rajasthan, five to seven MLAs made their appearance at the convention but from Madhya Pradesh not many MLAs came in support of Mr Arjun Singh. Incidentally, one Minister, Mr Inderjit Patel from Madhya Pradesh was present at the dais. Although the dissidents claimed that Mr Dalbir Singh, Mr S.S. Kairon, Mr Pawan Deway, Mr Bishveshwar Bhagat and Mr M. L. Jangde and Mr Shivendra Bahadur Singh had also come to the convention, yet some of these MPs have denied that they went to participate in the convention. Mr Kairon was one such MP who totally denied having gone to the Convention. The organisers of the rally, when asked to give the names of all the MPs, MLAs and AICC members promised to provide the full list by tomorrow.

Four MLAs also turned up at the convention from Assam. But the ministerialist sources said that they were already under suspension and therefore they were to attend the convention. One of them was former Chief Minister Gogoi. Two MLAs of Delhi Vikas Party also joined hands with the dissidents.

According to Mr Jagdambika Pal whip of the Congress in UP Assembly, 31 Congress MLAs had attended today's convention.

Group Elects Tiwari President

BK2005143095 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 20 May 95 p 1, 20

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, May 19 — Declaring themselves the "real Congress", the rebel group today installed Mr N.D. Tiwari as its president at the Congress workers convention here today. Mr Tiwari's name was proposed by Mr Arjun Singh.

The expulsion of Mr Arjun Singh and all others who were either expelled or suspended from the Congress by Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao was also revoked.

The rebel Congress also adopted the nomenclature of the Indian National Congress-I [INC-I].

Stressing that they were not splitting the Congress, Mr Arjun Singh said; "We do not want to split the Congress but the Congress workers assembled here feel that the leadership has failed to fulfil its responsibility. I therefore propose that in view of the leadership failure the Congress workers take this responsibility and without spliting the Congress agree to the INC-I".

Mr Arjun Singh also said that while laying the "foundations" of the INC-I, the convention authorises Mr N.D. Tiwari to carry on the future tasks of the Congress.

Mr N.D. Tiwari, while stating that be was "not ready" to take up the office, sought the "blessings and cooperation" of the entire country as he accepted the presidentship of the rebel Congress. He vowed to shape the Congress according to the "dream of the martyrs".

Giving a slogan of "unity, secularism and development", Mr Tiwari said that he would gear up the Congress to face the challenges of the 21st century while building a strong India.

Asserting that he would "resurrect" the Congress, Mr Tiwari said that the year ahead was one of struggle and hard work as he recalled Mrs Gandhi's struggle in 1969. Resorting to poetry. Mr Tiwari said that Mrs Gandhi had vowed to live and fight against all odds, even as she combated a situation which was very trying and testing:

"Log jis haal mein marne ki dua karte hain.

Hamne us hall mein jeene ki kasam khayee hai..."

["Some people are invoking God to bring death.

So we have taken a pledge to survive under those conditions."]

The "oust Rao" mood in the convention was apparent from the very outset. It became more vocal when Mr N.D. Tiwari decried the expulsion of Mr Arjun Singh and others at the very beginning of the convention.

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Almost immediately slogans demanding the ouster of Mr Rao were heard which were followed by several speakers raising the demand of removing Mr Rao from the presidentship of the Congress.

While one or two speakers sought his resignation from the Prime Ministership, there was also a demand for expelling him for "62 years instead of six years" from the party.

A recurrent theme at the convention was Mr Rao's alliance with the Opposition parties particularly with the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] in what appeared to be a "no holds barred" situation.

It was categorically stated that Mr Rao was determined to remain Prime Minister even it meant following an alliance with Chief Ministers in the Opposition ruled States. In this context Mr Mulayarn Singh Yadav, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister, Mr Laloo Prasad Yadav, Chief Minister of Bihar and even Mr N.T. Rama Rao and Ms Jayalalitha, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu were particularly mentioned. With reference to the BJP, Mr Rao was charged with belonging to the RSS cadres several years ago.

Interestingly, while asserting that they were the real Congress, senior leader Mr K.N. Singh called Mr Rao's Congress as the "Advani Congress" while reiterating that they were the INC-I. Some speakers also claimed that the electoral symbol of Congress is now theirs: "Panja ab hamara hai...." (The hand is ours).

The need to draft Ms Sonja Gandhi into the Congress was also echoed several times throughout the speeches at the convention. While Mr Rao was decried for not resigning as Congress president before seeking her intervention, he was charged with a "systematic conspiracy" to keep Mrs Gandhi out of Congress politics.

Some speakers asserted that it would be the responsiblity of the Congress workers' convention to create an atmosphere to get Ms Sonia Gandhi to lead the "real Congress".

Significantly some MLAs [members of the legislative assembly] from Rajasthan who had some days ago called on Ms Sonia Gandhi to seek her intervention also participated in the convention. These include Mr Narendra Singh Bhatti and Mr Daljeet Singh who claimed that they had come with a delegation comprising 3600 Congress workers including 7 MLAs, 27 AICC [All India Congress Convention] members and 43 former MLAs and Ministers.

A recurrent theme at the convention was the failure to bring the assassin of Mr Rajiv Gandhi to book, the deteriorating law and order situation, the rising prices, unemployment and subservience to the multinationals.

Right from the beginning, there was an attempt to emphasise the participation of the workers from South. While organisers were at pains to announce the numbers which had come to attend the convention from Tamil Naud, Andhra Pradesh and Kamataka, typically southern garlands were presented to both Mr Arjun Singh and Mr Tiwari. In fact at one point it was claimed that of the 27 Zila Congress Committee members, 23 had come to attend the convention besides six MPs and an equal number of MLAs. Workers also presented a "Sudarshan chakra" to Mr N.D. Tiwari which he described as Karyakarta chakra (the wheel of the workers).

With the first few hours of the convention the workers demanded a decision. In fact workers were often heard saying that the convention should give a clear direction to the workers so that they could go back armed with a specific message.

It is in this context that while listening to speeches amid enthusiastic slogan-raising and the sound of bugles, there was a demand for the focus to shift from "bhashan to faisla" (speeches to decisions), clearly indicative of the fact that the workers wanted a president to be named.

In fact as the evening progressed, the impatience of the workers was very visible as they waited for a decision on the new president to be announced.

Consequently when Mr Arjun Singh wound up his hour-long speech, while expressing his gratitude, there was a near protest and the deafening demand from the workers to install the president. As the tempo built up and the demand was continually voiced, Mr Arjun Singh got up for the second time and proposed Mr Tiwari's name amid cheer and applause.

Earlier, quoting extensively from Pt [Pundit]. Jawaharlal Nehru's works and recalling poignant moments with Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi, Arjun Singh, withouts naming Mr Rao, launched a scathing attack on his leadership, while categorising himself as an "ordinary worker" whose identity is the Congress.

While decrying the "hypocrisy" of the present leadership, in paying tributes to Rajiv Gandhi but failing to book his assassins, Mr Arjun Singh called for "speedy and stern" action in unravelling the conspiracy behind Mr Gandhi's assassination.

Recalling Rajiv Gandhi's dream of taking India to the 21st century, Mr Arjun Singh evoked enough sentiment and response from the workers when he said that both Mrs Gandhi and Mr Rajiv Gandhi were leaders in the real sense of the term. He also underlined the need

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to have a Congress which would be able to project an image which was clean as he decried the rampant corruption which was presently existing.

He also advocated the need to review the situation and define the future course of action in order to address the challenges facing the party. He warned against complacency and stressed the need to restore the "balance" in the party. Outlining the importance of the electorate, Mr Arjun Singh said: "The vote will become our nemesis".

Among those who were present were Mr K.K. Tewary, Mr M.L. Fotedar, Mr Jagmeet Singh Brar, Mrs Shiela Dixit, Mrs Mohsina Kidwai, Mr K.N. Singh, Mr Sripat Mishra, Mr Hokishe Sema and Mr Anil Shastri.

Close circuit televisions had been set up for the benefit of those who could not gain entry into the main enclosure adjacent to the Talkatora indoor stadium while a huge screen had been set up inside the stadium.

A special enclosure had been set up close to the site of the convention venue for those who wanted to offer Friday [19 May] prayers.

Tiwari, Arjun Singh Hail 'New Chapter'

BK2005154895 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 20 May 95 p 20

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A visibly elated Arjun Singh and N.D. Tiwari described the congress workers Convention as the "making of another history" in the country and the starting of a "new chapter for the Congress."

Addressing a joint Press conference here at the conclusion of the convention, Mr Tiwari said "I feel very humble today because of the onerous responsibility bestowed on me by the unanimous voice of thousands of Congress workers."

He said he was not prepared to shoulder this responsibility but it was the wish of the party's rank and file who were not "prepared to wait any longer."

Mr Tiwari stressed that the political and economic documents prepared for the convention and all other resolutions of the Congress adopted at its Tirupati and Surajkund sessions would be valid for the future. "Whatever decisions we take will be valid and should be viewed in the overall context of what India has to offer in the 21st century."

Stating that his first task was to reoganise and galvanise the party organisation, Mr Tiwari said "we bear malice towards none". He appealed to all the AICC [All India Congress Convention] members, MPs, PCC [Pradesh Congress Committee] and DCC [District Congress Committee] functionaries who had been hesitant so far "to come and feel the pulse of the nation and the will of the people". He expressed confidence that Congressmen throughout the country would join hands in the new endeavour.

Asked what his role was in the light of the decisions taken to the convention, Mr Arjun Singh said it would be what the Congress worker has defined "for me in the last four months. My effort has been to create an awareness about the challenges facing the country and what rule we Congress workers have to play. I treasure much more being a Congress worker and fighting for a cause," he said.

He recalled that in February he was asked by a scribe that the road chosen by him seemed to be lonely. He had then stated "wait for three months for events to take a turn. That has happened in just three months," Mr Singh pointed out.

Thanking Mr Singh for proposing his name as the new Congress chief, Mr Tiwari said the headquarters of his party would be located at the Capital. At present their office was operating at Mr K. Ramamurthy's residence.

Mr Tiwari was asked about the issue of symbol and other organisational matters. He said "many things have to be decided and I cannot make off-hand announcements on so many matters."

On who would be the leader of the Congress party in Parliament, Mr Tiwari said this would be decided soon. The two leaders said they had never considered splitting the Congress. Asked about the party flag, Mr Singh said it would be the same Tricolour.

Congress-I Party Reacts to Dissident Convention

Rao Expels Tiwari From Party

BK1905164895 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1630 GMT 19 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Congress-I president, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, has expelled Mr. N.D. Tiwari from the primary membership of the Congress-I for antiparty activities for six years with immediate effect.

Earlier, the Congress-I dissidents elected Mr. N.D. Tiwari as their leader. His name was proposed by Mr. Arjun Singh at a convention in New Delhi today. The election came at the end of a daylong convention of Congress workers convened by Mr. Arjun Singh, Mr. N.D. Tiwari, and other dissident Congressmen.

The Congress-I general secretary, Mr. Janardhana Poojary, has described the so-called convention held in New Delhi by some disgruntled elements as both illegal and

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a farcical display, reflecting the frustration and desperation of persons consumed by personal ambitions.

Party Condemns 'Illegal' Meeting

BK2005162695 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 20 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Congress-I Working Committee [CWC] has condemned in strongest terms the whole charade put up by the disgruntled and expelled leaders of the so-called Congress workers convention. In a resolution unanimously adopted at its meeting in New Delhi tonight, the working committee described the convention as totally illegal and unconstitutional and a flagrant violation of party discipline. The CWC reposed its full faith in the leadership of the party president, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao. The resolution said that Mr. Rao steered the country and the party at the moment of crisis after the assassination of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi in May 1991. It said both the polity and economy are stable and the nation is on the path of progress because of his leadership. The resolution said in a parliamentary democracy ups and downs in the life of a political party are not unusual. However, in the recent past, in the face of the slightest adversity the so-called leaders deserted the party and returned when the party came back to power. The CWC called upon all the party members to unitedly perform the unfinished task entrusted to it by the father of the nation, Mahatma Gandhi.

Various Pradesh [state] Congress-I committees and the Congress- I chief ministers have welcomed the expulsion of Mr. N.D. Tiwari from the party for antiparty activities. In separate statements today, they pledged their total support to the leadership of Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao. The Andhra Pradesh PCC-I [Pradesh Congress Committee-I] president, Mr. Kamaluddin Ahmad, said the party is intact all over the country. The Himachal Pradesh chief minister, Mr. Bir Bhadra Singh, said the need of the hour is the party discipline. The Tamil Nadu PCC-I president, Mr. Kumri Anandan, described the dissidents' convention as a damp squib. The Bihar PCC-I and the state CLP [Congress Legislature Party] described yesterday's dissidents convention as an act of indiscipline. The Punjab, West Bengal and Tripura Congress-I committees have said that Mr. Narasimha Rao has the backing of the congressmen all over the country. The Orissa PCC-I president and chief minister, Mr. J.B. Patnaik, has said that no sensible congressman will support the dissidents. The Maharashtra PCC-I president, Mr. Shivajirao Deshmukh, said stern action will be taken against those who attended yesterday's dissidents convention in New Delhi. The Haryana PCC-I chief, Mr. Dharampal Singh Malik, and the chief minister, Mr. Bhajan Lal, have reposed full faith in the leadership of Mr. Narasimha Rao. Two party MLA's [members of legislative assembly] — Mr. Birendra Singh and Dr. Ram Prakash — have been expelled from the primary membership of the party for six years for antiparty activities. The chief ministers of Meghalaya and Pondicherry — Mr. A.C. Marak and Mr. Vaithilingam — have also expressed full faith in the leadership of Mr. Narasimha Rao. The Youth Congress-I president, Mr. M.S. Bitta, has said that the exit of dissidents from the party will help the party emerge stronger. The Congress-I secretary in parliament, Mr. B. Narayanaswami, said it is high time to weed out dissident elements from the party.

'Total Support' Pledged to Rao

BK2105102095 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 21 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Congress-I Working Committee [CWC] has reposed its full faith in the leadership of Mr. Narasimha Rao.

In a resolution adopted unanimously at its meeting in New Delhi last night, the CWC described the so-called Congress workers convention as illegal and in flagrant violation of party discipline. The working committee requested the party president to enforce strict discipline in every stage so that the party can get rid of those who want to destroy it.

The resolution pointed out that the Congress president did not accept Mr. N.D. Tiwari's resignation from the CWC till the last moment. Mr. Rao also did not reconstitute the entire organization structure as per the CWC resolution on the 5th of last month only to give a last chance to the recalcitrants to behave. It said unfortunately, the so-called dissidents have an ulterior motive of destroying the Congress only to facilitate non-Congress parties to come to power.

Briefing newspersons after the two-hour-long meeting, the AICC-I [All India Congress Committee-I] general secretary, Mr. Janardhana Poojary, said action will be taken in due course against those who attended the convention. Replying to a question, Mr. Poojary said by organizing the convention the dissidents have put an end to unity efforts. He said all working committee members except Mr. Sharad Pawar, Mr. Beant Singh, and A.K. Anthony attended the meeting presided over by Mr. Rao. Mr. Poojary said Mr. Pawar is abroad and Mr. Anthony and Mr. Beant Singh are busy in the by-election campaign. He announced that the CWC will meet again soon to decide the date for the next AICC-I session.

Meanwhile, more reactions have come in from pradesh [state] Congress-I committees welcoming the expulsion

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of Mr. N.D. Tiwari from the party. They pledged their total support to the leadership of Mr. Narasimha Rao. The Karnataka Pradesh Congress-I recommended to the AICC-I the expulsion of those Congressmen from Karnataka who attended the dissidents rally on Friday [19 May]. The Uttar Pradesh Congress-I Committee appealed to all Congress workers to expose the nefarious activities of the self-seekers.

The Rajasthan Pradesh Congress-I Committee asked the party workers to unitedly strengthen the organization, while the Assam Congress-I felt that the dissidents' activities will not affect the organization. Union ministers, Mr. Buta Singh and Mr. R.L. Bhatia, and Congress-I chief ministers from Goa, Orissa, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, and Assam have also reaffirmed their faith in the leadership of Mr. Narasimha Rao.

Iran

Russian Envoy: No Delay in Reactor Delivery

LD2205131995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 22 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Russian ambassador to Tehran says nuclear reactors will be delivered to Iran with no delay.

Speaking to XINHUA news agency yesterday, Sergey Tretyakov stressed that Russia's nuclear cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran is in accordance with the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and will be continued.

Tretyakov also termed as unsuccessful the U.S. efforts and pressures exerted on Russia to cancel the agreement, saying that the moves by the United States are only aimed at pressurizing Russia and Iran.

Concerning diplomatic relations between the two countries, the Russian ambassador to Tehran said Iran is one of the most important countries in the region with whom Russia has cooperation in different areas.

Russian ambassador added that Iran and Russia are preparing 10 important cooperation documents which will be signed by the two countries presidents in Yeltsin's next visit to Tehran.

U.S. 'Plans To Undermine' Ties With Russia

LD2205131895 Tehran IRNA in English 1200 GMT 22 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, May 22, IRNA — The United States plans to undermine the role of Iran and Russia in the Caucasus region by putting pressure on the two countries in order to consolidate its own position in the strategic region, a political expert said.

"To achieve this goal, the U.S. has put pressure on Iran to make it stop cooperation with Russia," he said. On the other hand, he added, Washington has threatened Moscow to abandon the cooperation.

Washington tries to force Iran and Russia into curtailing their role in Central Asia and the Caucasus, he added.

"Iran's location between two great oil fields of the Persian Gulf and the Caucasus and Russia's weakened position after the fall of the Soviet Union, has prompted Washington to perform such a scenario with the aim of securing its own position in the Caucasus," the political expert said.

Iran's special position in the Persian Gulf region and its achievements in presenting a model of living and working without the U.S. which can practiced by other regional countries, has dealt a double pressure on the U.S., he said.

Washington, supported by a propaganda campaign and by mounting political, economic and cultural pressure on Iran, plans to harm this model of living, he stressed.

Velayati Comments on OIC, Iraq, Regional Issues

LD2205093295 Tehran IRNA in English 0838 GMT 22 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, May 22, IRNA — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said the Islamic Republic of Iran from the very beginning of the Bosnian crisis has spared no effort to help settle the problem.

Velayati, in a talk to TEHRAN TIMES upon arrival from Rabat, Maghreb, said Iran has always played a crucial role in all international fora on Bosnia.

Referring to Iran's effort in this regard, Velayati added that Iran began a new initiative with the cooperation of Greece to bring about peace to the region.

The tripartite efforts of Iran, Greece and Bosnia have been a prelude to restore peace to the region, he added.

"In Rabat, I briefed the OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference] contact group on the latest achievements of the tripartite talks on Bosnia," Velayati said, adding that the Greek foreign minister also briefed the international Contact Group on the latest achievements."

The foreign minister expressed hope that Iran's efforts would culminiate in peace for Bosnia. He further said even Belgrade has given green signals to recognize Bosnia.

On the future of Bosnia, he said, "on the one hand the Security Council is silent on Bosnia, the international Contact Group is not doing anything in practice, and

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some of the Western countries whose peacekeeping forces are in the Balkans have threatened to withdraw."

He also hoped that the tripartite or quadripartite talks would reach a positive point and be fruitful.

The foreign minister reminded that the efforts exerted by the tripartite meeting would not be contrary to international activities.

He underlined that if certain countries decide to withdraw their forces from the region, Islamic countries including Iran are ready to replace them under the United Nations.

Concerning measures taken by the OIC contact group to practically protect the civilians in Bosnia, Velayati said the contact group called on the OIC members in the U.N. to ask for holding a special meeting of the General Assembly on Bosnia.

The contact group called for the continuation of the assistance of Islamic countries to help Bosnia in its reconstruciton and stressed that the Bosnians have the right to defend themselves.

As for his talks with Maghreb officials, including the prime minister, he said it was decided to set up a joint economic commission in the near future to boost bilateral trade relations.

On relations with Iraq, Velayati said, "Iran and Iraq as two Muslim neighbors have to move towards good neighborliness". Iran has sent a delegation to Baghdad to resume talks in this direction, he added expressing the hope that with the cooperation of the two coutnries Iran and Iraq would overcome the problems and hurdles in bilateral ties.

On the Caspian Sea legal regime, he said Iran tries to boost cooperation among the littoral states of the Caspian Sea and will defend its rights while respects the rights of others.

Answering a question concerning the REUTER's report on talks with the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Velayati said, "it is a bilateral issue between Iran and the UAE on the island of Abu Musa. Iran welcomes bilateral talks between the two sides."

Government Delegation Departs for Visit to Iraq

Foreign Minister Cites Need for Ties

NC2205055095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 22 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A high-ranking political delegation from our Foreign Ministry left for Baghdad yesterday for talks with Iraqi officials. The Central News Unit reports that commenting on the delegation's visit, the foreign minister said: The need for cooperation between Iran and Iraq as two neighboring countries is being felt more than before, and we hope the talks between the two can remove the obstacles to normalizing Tehran-Baghdad relations.

Radio Views Visit, 'Common Points'

NC2205055995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 22 May 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] As you heard on the news, a high-ranking delegation from our Foreign Ministry has left for Baghdad. Commenting on the visit, Foreign Minister Velayati stated: The need for talks and exchanges of views among the two countries' officials is being felt more than before; I hope this visit will remove the obstacles to bilateral relations.

Many political experts believe the elements that bring Iran and Iraq closer are much more than the problems that separate them. Iran and Iraq are two neighboring countries with a common border. In its regional policies, the United States is trying to isolate both. Although Washington approaches each with different motives, its approach in both cases has created more or less similar conditions. Iran and Iraq are two oil-producing countries and OPEC members and have close views on many international problems, particularly on the Palestinian crisis.

Next to all these common points that can pave the way for cultural coordination and cooperation under the current sensitive conditions, there are, unfortunately, some elements that weaken any type of cooperation. Iraq's refusal to free the remaining Iranian prisoners of war and Baghdad's support for counter-revolutionary terrorists are among the most important of these elements. Last year, although Iran agreed to raise the talks to the foreign ministerial level and set a date for Velayati's visit to Baghdad, unfortunately, the crime perpetrated by the blind-hearted Monafeqin [hypocrites—pejorative term for the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization], that is, the explosion in Imam Reza's shrine, enraged the Iranian people and prevented the visit. Clearly, Iraq's support for the terrorist Monafeqin group and the criminal acts it perpetrates renders goodwill efforts for expanding bilateral relations futile.

Iraq can emerge from its isolation when it improves its relations with neighboring countries and with the world of Islam. Only then will world arrogance be unable to

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continue its individual approaches to Islamic countries and preserve the hegemony.

New Foreign Exchange Rates, Policies Enacted

Minister Interviewed on Decision

LD2005123595 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 20 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] After recent developments in the foreign exchange market and the cabinet setting of the U.S. dollar at 3,000 rials, Morteza Mohammad-Khani, economic affairs and finance minister, in an exclusive interview spoke to our correspondent on the reasons for the recent economic decision and its consequences.

He said: Last year [year beginning 21 March 1993] the foreign currency rate fluctuated between 2,000 and 3,000 rials, and there were exports of more than $4.4 billion at those currency rates. Bearing in mind that exporting carries a larger risk than domestic trade, the government decided on an appropriate rate to establish price stability in the country and consolidate the policies for regulating the market. Thus, a rate of 3,000 rials was approved for exports. All market dealings will be at the official rate.

Replying to a question on the possible effects of the new decision on goods prices, the finance minister said: The policies for stabilizing currency prices are one of the major points of the policy for stabilizing the state economy. We have come to several conclusions in our policies for stabilizing the market. The upshot is that government's control policies must continue and, on that basis, all the factors that will help stabilize the market must continue, including the government financial and budgetary policies, monetary policy, the anti-smuggling campaign, and limiting peripheral activities.

On the reduction of economic exchanges resulting from the newly determined currency prices, he said: In the future that decision will bring about increased exports. If exports are carried out at the floating currency prices, the prices of our produced goods will increase but they will not be competitive in world markets. Another point is that if currency rates rise, exporters will decide against commercial deals and become foreign exchange dealers.

Mohammad-Khani said: The stability of foreign exchange for exports will bring about stability in prices, which will help regulate the economy. We have made the decision for the purpose of stemming economic irregularities.

The economic affairs and finance minister was asked about those importers who have traded at higher rates than the new ones and the fact that there will be a difference in revenue if their imports are sold at new 3,000 rial rate. He said: If foreign currency is exchanged with goods, the rate will be calculated at 3,000 rials today. Today the community will be dealing at the new rates. The existing difference is a natural one. In macro decision-making such losses do occur. We believe that the figure will not be more than $10 million. Bearing in mind the state foreign currency earnings of $14 billion plus $5 billion for nonoil exports, that figure is insignificant. If some suffer losses in this they must compensate with their earlier profits. That is because we are considering the general economy of the state.

He added: Taking into account that exporters today are obliged to bring in the total amount of their foreign currency earnings, in practice we will be faced with three months of demand for foreign exchange. The banking system has been asked to intervene in the market, study the domestic demand, and control the prices. It is predicted that under the new policy the amount of foreign exchange that will be returned to the country will be more than is expected. That will further help with investment. Therefore, there seems to be no problems as far as goods are concerned. Thus, all prices will be moderated and acceptable.

As for the implementation guarantees of the new decision, he said: Any currency dealings outside the said system will be deemed as smuggling of goods.

He was asked about the number of types of foreign currency in the country under present changes. He said: Two types — one is the currency earned through oil exports which will be offered by the Central Bank for development and economic policies at the rate of 1,750 rials. The other — according to market mechanisms — will be a 3,000 rial type. Anyone who attempts exchanges outside that system will be dealt with. From now on, all prices will be determined on the basis of that foreign currency rate.

On foreign currency for travel, he said: The travel currency allowance is $300, which will be offered to passengers at airports at the 3,000 rial rate.

Little Business at Money, Gold Exchanges

LD2005110695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 20 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Our correspondent Ja'fari today dispatched a report from the streets of Tehran on the effects of the new cabinet decision aimed at stabilizing foreign exchange rates. I draw your attention to it:

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[Ja'fari] A sharp fall in foreign exchange rates in money markets is definite and possible to envisage following the new monetary policies announced by the cabinet.

Today no transactions took place at the Central Bank authorized exchange bureaus and most of the exchange bureaus around the Central Bank building are closed.

Gold dealers are also refraining from buying or selling gold and coins and are saying that they did not like to go ahead with any kind of deal until prices have stabilized. Even though some exchange bureaus display the rate of 3,000 rials per U.S. dollar, they are only prepared to buy them. [passage omitted]

Currency Market in 'Confusion'

NC2005132795 Paris AFP in English
1058 GMT 20 May 95

[By Kianouche Dorranie]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, May 20 (AFP) — Iran's currency exchange market was left in confusion on Saturday [20 May] following the introduction of tough new government measures to try to tackle the country's economic crisis.

Nearly all private money changers in the capital remained closed or refused to conduct transactions on the first trading day of the week after the government abandoned the free exchange market and introduced new controls on capital flows in and out of Iran.

Meanwhile, unauthorised street dealers hanging around the district near the Central Bank traded hard currency at a rate much higher than that set by the government on Thursday before the country began its weekend.

As part of the new regulations, all transactions will have to go through the state banking system and the dollar was fixed at a maximum rate of 3,000 rials, half the rate the greenback was trading at on the open market earlier last week.

"We don't know what we shall do now," a money changer told AFP saying "no one will be willing to sell his foreign currency at the fictitious rate" set by the government.

He said the "real" value of the the dollar was "clearly more than 3,000 rials and predicted that "transactions would be undertaken clandestinely and the free market will turn into a black market."

Most of the money changers operating in Tehran exchange market rushed to the Central Bank to try to find out more about the new laws, acording to money changers.

The new measure, which comes into force on Sunday, amounts to the closure of the free exchange, which was set up in 1990, two years after the end of Iran's eight-year war against neighboring Iraq.

The government has also brought foreign trade under its full control to force exporters to repatriate all their foreign earnings.

The latest decisions have sparked consternation and disbelief among industrialists and those in commerce, notably people involved in foreign trade.

"Much of the trade in the past weeks has been calculated on the basis of 5,000 to 6,000 rials to the dollar," said an exporter of food and agricultural products. "The operators will lose fortunes if they are forced to sell their dollars at the official rate."

"These measures will lead to widespread fraud. It will create a great deal of confusion in the export of non-oil products by the private sector," an Iranian expert told AFP.

The rial has lost two-thirds of its value since the start of the year, triggering galloping inflation which has doubled and in some cases tripled the prices of basic goods.

Frustrated by the economic chaos, the authorities last week said they were bringing in the death penalty to punish those engaged in economic crimes.

Some 100 MPs urged the parliament on Wednesday to "immediately" debate a proposition for the implementation of death sentences against those "who contribute to price rises" in Iran.

Agents To Confront 'Saboteurs'

LD2005175795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
1630 GMT 20 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The interior minister has issued a warning to economic saboteurs. He said: Starting the morning of Sunday, 21 May, agents of the law enforcement forces will be ready to confront illegal foreign exchange smugglers and dealers. Mr. Besharati added: The law enforcement forces are prepared to implement the recent measures approved by the cabinet against the smuggling of foreign currencies and goods, to act immediately on witnessing any cases falling outside the framework announced in the law, and, in addition to seizing the foreign currency, to arrest offenders so that they face the imposition of the legally stipulated punishment.

The interior minister also referred to the smuggling of goods and its role in disrupting economic equilibrium,

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and noted: The Interior Ministry is duty bound to prevent the entry into the country of unregistered goods, and which have been imported outside the legal framework. He also said: In view of the fact that 90 percent of smuggled goods enter the economic network via Bandar Abbas, law enforcement agents are ready to confront economic saboteurs in that region, as well as other entry routes.

Radio Views Government Efforts

NC2005091495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 20 May 95

[Commentary by News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] The latest ministerial cabinet session, held last Wednesday [17 May], approved regulations for controlling the foreign exchange market and the setting of fixed rates for its sale and purchase, thus halting some months of fluctuations and an erratic price spiral.

Because this decision goes into effect tomorrow, there have been reports of the sale and purchase of gold and foreign currencies, despite the two holidays, and this has resulted in a radical drop in prices. In view of the fact that it is mandatory for exporters to sell all their foreign exchange earnings to the banking networks, as well as the need for foreign exchange for imports of goods and services through these networks, it has been forecast that this trend will continue until the parity rate reaches 3,000 rials per dollar.

The attainment of this rate depends on the one hand on scrupulous observation of the regulations approved by the government aimed at preventing the unauthorized sale of foreign exchange and a harsh crack down on violators. On the other hand, it is essential to revamp economic dealings to reduce the demand for foreign exchange and absorb existing liquidity.

The Central Bank's allocation in accordance with the country's priorities of the foreign exchange it gets from non-oil exports may succeed in controlling exchange rates. However, we must forestall any disorganization in the ultimate sale of goods, whether domestically produced or imported, by scrupulously enforcing economic and financial discipline.

Economic experts believe that the main cause of the high prices of all goods, including foreign exchange, is the existence of a vast pool of liquid funds in society and its haphazard growth in the past few years. To control it, we should begin issuing and selling shares for participation, offer of shares in government industries to the private sector, and raise interest rates on bank deposits in order to boost bank deposits.

'Second' Friday Prayer Sermon Delivered

LD1905153395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 19 May 95

['Second' Friday prayer sermon delivered in Tehran by Ayatollah Mohammad Emami-Kashani, spokesman for the Guardians Council — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the Name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted]

In my second sermon, I want to speak about the conditions that, as you know, are present in the world of Islam, that is, in Palestine, Bosnia-Herzegovina, the system in the Islamic Republic [of Iran], and in fact in other Islamic communities and movements all over the world.

The United States, with its known hostility toward Islam and the Islamic order in general, has started a process which will ultimately bring it nothing but humiliation and the sense of having to deal with a dead end situation.

The question now is why the United States acted in this way? The Islamic revolution is a reality which has revealed its nature in the world. When one goes abroad among Muslims — or non-Muslims for that matter — one sees what this Islamic revolution has done and what great splendor it has created.

During my recent holy journey [to Mecca], many people, including distinguished academic and political personalities, came to the premises housing the leadership's office. Some others, who for particular personal reasons could not come to the office, met us in the holy cites of Ka'ba and the prophet's mosque to tell us about their ideas and beliefs. [crowd chants greetings to Mohammed]

Now the situation is such that some of those who came from Europe — European Muslims — said that when their radios, their televisions, or the United States said something against the Islamic Republic of Iran they would believe exactly the opposite. This is the situation now.

Despite all the hostile propaganda which the world arrogance has waged and is waging [against Iran] — and of course we should be vigilant and should neutralize them — nevertheless, the Islamic revolution revealed its true face in such a way that now people make such a judgement. They do not believe that the enemies are telling the truth. No matter what they say against Iran the people believe the opposite. This is the case with

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people whether in Europe, or in Islamic countries. This is not limited to the Arabs or Islamic countries. This feeling exists throughout the world, thanks be to God.

Some of them told me that when they heard that Iran was faced with economic problems they were very sad and they prayed that God would give such strength to these people [of Iran] so that they could pass through this phase; because if, God forbid, the banner of Islam falls from the hands of the Iranian people it will fall for ever. This is the view which the world now holds concerning the Islamic revolution. They are praying for us.

We tell them that, thanks to God, our nation is steadfast, our people are self-sacrificing, our nation is awake, and our government is also trying hard to solve economic problems. And we hope that God will assist the government to solve this major problem.

Some members of parliament from a country which has both Muslim and Christian inhabitants said that if the number of Muslim members of parliament reaches a majority they will follow the constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, that they will follow the same path. The issue of basing laws on Islamic principles and on the Shari'ah, and the issue of the Guardian Council, and following such a path, this is something which is a reality in the world today.

On one hand, the United States sees this reality, that this Islamic revolution and this banner is moving forward with such greatness, thanks be to God. This is something which is said by those who are university staff, those who are in charge of the young generation in Europe and in the Islamic world. This is not merely the view of ordinary people. This is very important. The Islamic revolution has great significance in the world, and the enemy also knows how important it is. Therefore, through accusation, false allegation, spreading rumors, and creating fear in the people... [pauses] This is the United States' tactic now. This is something that they [the people] know.

All the analysts of the world, those who are aware of the issues concerning the Islamic revolution believe that the United States started waging a psychological war [against Iran] in order to create fear among the people. Thanks to God, we passed that stage. [sentence as heard] The Islamic Republic system, through reliance on God almighty and through the support of the great Iranian nation and under the leadership of the esteemed leader of the revolution, may his shadow be extended, is following its path with strength. [crowd chants slogans of "Death to America", "Death to Israel" and other slogans]

I hope that, God willing, this becomes an introduction to the global government of the Imam of the Age, may our souls be sacrificed for him.

On one hand, this is a psychological war [by the United States against Iran]. On the other hand, the United States wishes to get rid of its arms as it is facing an economic problem. [Therefore] it frightens countries in the neighborhood of Iran and the Islamic revolution. That is despite the fact that the Islamic Republic has passed its test, and they themselves have experienced the fact that the Islamic system supports security. There is no system like the Islamic system of Iran in the whole region which believes in peace and security and safeguarding [national] borders. But, at the same time, the United States frightens the regional states in order to get rid of its arms.

There is a third point about the United States which is a serious problem for it. The United States places too much value on the Zionists and Israel. All of its efforts are therefore linked to that. When it says for example that Iran is a terrorist [state] or that it supports terrorism or [that it intends to gain access] to nuclear arms, it knows itself that what it is saying are lies. The issue is the issue of the usurper Israel. Following the defeat of world arrogance in these issues [of the Middle East peace process], the usurper Israel is now focussing all its efforts on the Islamic system, against the movement of the Lebanese Muslims. The people themselves have recognized Islam. The brave people of Lebanon and Palestine have themselves woken up and are making a move. But at the same time they [Israel] are working against the Islamic system and are exerting pressure on the Islamic Republic. But, God almighty be praised, we feel no pressure because the United States has not been successful and it will gain nothing from this.

As you know, for 20 years Israel has been saying it wants to make Palestine [as heard] its capital. And now the United States says it wants to move its embassy from Tel Aviv to Palestine [as heard]. And the usurping Zionists have started to expropriate land belonging to Muslims. They are expropriating pieces of land here, there, and everywhere. The Security Council has clearly condemned the usurping Israel, saying it should not expropriate those lands, but as we saw, the United States vetoed the resolution and the Security Council's condemnation [of Israel].

Here I say one thing to the people of the United States: A few years ago the Imam [Khomeyni] said that the White House and the Soviet Union would one day disintegrate. He said it many times. We have seen that the Soviet Union disintegrated, and the reason for its disintegration was obvious. Why did the Soviet Union

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disintegrate? Because they relied on a materialistic ideology and a false economy. And that blew them up, and we saw what happened to the Soviet Union.

The question is: Why will the United States fall? We are beginning to realize that the United States will fall because of its support for the Zionists. That is a fact. A bunch of Zionist capitalists are in control of the United States and its political power. I say in all faith that the holy [Koranic] verse — which is about Israel — which says that shame and destitution were imposed on them, means that Israel is disgraced and infamous, that the regime occupying Jerusalem has no credibility in the world, and that same infamy, shame, and lack of credibility will befall the United States. That is, a number of the United States' leaders are sacrificing the U.S. people for the Zionists. They are sacrificing the United States' destiny for a bunch of Zionists.

The nation of the United States should be made aware of that. The U.S. people should go on the street and shout slogans against their leaders, asking them: Why are you selling us out for the sake of a bunch of Israelis? There is so much treason against the people in the world and especially in Islamic societies.

In any event, we hope that the White House regime will fall soon, God willing. [passage omitted]

Pakistan

President, Officials Discuss National Security

BK1905114995 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 19 May 95 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — President Sardar Farooq Leghari and the Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto have had in depth discussion on important national issues during a meeting here at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Thursday [18 May].

The meeting was also attended by the Federal Minister for Defence Aftab Shaaban Merani and Chief Minister Sindh Syed Abdullah Shah.

Though no official statement was available on the meeting but sources said that the meeting primarily dealt with matters related to internal and external security arising out following the burning of the shrine of Shaikh Nuruddin Wali at Charar sharif by the Indian occupation forces and resultant threat by the Indian leaders against Pakistan.

The News has learnt that the defence minister apprised the meeting about defence preparedness to meet any challenge from the enemy. The National leadership reiterated their pledge to continue moral and diplomatic support to the struggling People of Kashmir despite threats from India. They also exchanged views over today's protest call.

Independent observers in the Capital feel that there are major threats to Pakistan's internal security as Indian agents may once again hit already turbulent Karachis to divert world attention from Occupied Kashmir. Sources said that the Sindh Chief Minister Syed Abdullah Shah apprised the meeting about steps taken by the provincial government to to meet the challenge.

The News has learnt that the meeting is reported to have decided to enhance vigilance on the border areas of Sindh to prevent any possible infiltration of the Indian agents in the Province.

It also decided to initiate further political steps to restore normalcy in Karachi and other urban areas of Sindh so that the decade old Karachi crisis could be resolved. In this regard, the Sindh chief minister apprised the meeting about outcome of his later contacts and discussions with MQM [Muhajir Quami Movement] representative to bring peace in the Karachi.

The meeting also discussed effective and selective implementation of the proposed amendment in Evidence Act which has been given legal cover through a Presidential Ordinance recently.

The President and the Prime Minister during the meeting emphasized the need for national consensus on Kashmir issue.

The News has further learnt that Nawabzada Nasrulah may be assigned to contact opposition for taking them into confidence over the steps taken by the government in this regard.

After the meeting at Aiwan-e-Sadr, the Sindh chief minister held a separate meeting with the Prime Minister during which besides other issues he had discussed Sindh's share in the development budget for year 1995-96.

Meanwhile, another important meeting was held at Aiwan-e-Sadr after lunch which was attended by the President, the Prime Minister besides, the Punjab Governor Chaudhary Altaf Hussain and senior Minister, Makhdoom Altaf Hussain. This meeting is reported to have focussed on the forthcoming local bodies elections in Punjab.

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Kashmir Situation Referred to UN Security Council

Butrus-Ghali Expresses 'Deep Concern'

BK1905121195 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 19 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The UN secretary general, Mr. Butrus-Ghali, has expressed deep concern at the evolving situation in occupied Kashmir as a result of desecration and destruction of the shrine of Sheikh Nuruddin Wali and the adjacent mosque at Charar Sharif. He said this during a meeting with Pakistan's permanent representative at the United Nations, Mr. Ahmad Kamal. The UN secretary general told the Pakistani envoy that he would discuss all the documents relating to Kashmir with his senior aides. Mr. Butrus-Ghali said that he had been offering his good offices in the past to help resolve the Kashmir issue.

On this occasion, Mr. Ahmad Kamal handed over to the secretary general a letter from Pakistan's foreign minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, demanding appropriate measures to resolve the dispute in accordance with the Security Council resolutions. Referring to the attempts of the Indian Government to distort facts in this connection, Mr. Ahmad Kamal reiterated Pakistan's stand that the United Nations should send a fact-finding mission to the disputed territory to ascertain the true position. The Pakistani envoy also brought to the notice of the secretary general the wild statements of the responsible Indian cabinet ministers in the Indian Parliament about forcing a war on Pakistan.

Letter Sent on 'Grave Situation'

BK2105095895 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 21 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali has sent a letter to UN Security Council President (M. John Bernard), drawing his attention toward the current grim situation prevailing in occupied Jammu and Kashmir, especially after the martyrdom of Charar Sharif shrine and the adjoining mosque. In the letter, it has been stated that under a premeditated plan, Indian troops set fire to this 15th century shrine and the adjoining school. This action, which was deliberately committed on the occasion of 'Id al-Adha, has not only anguished all the Kashmiri people, but also Muslims all over the world. Due to the assault of Indian troops on the city, houses and shops have been damaged on a massive scale and a large number of civilians have been martyred and wounded. This grave situation existing in occupied Kashmir is the outcome of the brutal military operations being carried out by the Indian Government to suppress the Kashmiri people and to deprive them of their right to self-determination, which have been acknowledged by the UN resolutions and pledged by India and Pakistan. Owing to the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, relations between Pakistan and India during the past 48 years have been tense and now Indian cabinet ministers have been hurling threats of war against Pakistan. As long as no suitable steps are taken to resolve this issue in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions, it will be difficult to establish peace and stability in the region. The foreign minister urged the Security Council president to bring this matter to the notice of the members of the UN Security Council at the earliest in view of the grim situation prevailing in occupied Kashmir.

Daily Views Letter, Needed 'Measures'

BK1905131295 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 19 May 95 p 6

[Editorial: "India in the dock"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A nationwide protest day against the burning of the revered shrine of Sheikh Nuruddin Wali at Charar Sharif in occupied Kashmir by the Indian troops is being observed today across the country as an expression of national outrage at the sacrilege. The All Parties Hurriyat conference is also observing a Black Day in Azad Kashmir in protest against the tragic incident. Meanwhile, speaking at Khan Garh, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto vowed that Pakistan would continue its moral and diplomatic support to the Kashmiris despite "Indian threats." She observed that the nation is indivisible and every Pakistani is ready to defend the country's integrity. The Indian leadership, she said, is mistaken if it thinks that Pakistan would withdraw its support to the Kashmiris following threats of aggression. "Pakistan is fully capable of giving a befitting reply in case of any aggression," she declared. The Prime Minister said that India had come to know that its grip over Kashmir was weakening and that was why it was trying to strengthen its hold by acts of terrorism and spreading panic in the occupied territories.

That India has no respect or regard for holy places of its minorities is evident from several instances over the years which include the attack on the Golden Temple in Amritsar, demolition of Babri Mosque, siege of Dargah Hazratbal and finally the destruction of Dargah Charar Sharif. It is now reported to have set up bunkers around another revered shrine in Occupied Kashmir, Ziarat Baba Reshi. The Indian Army Chief of Staff is on a visit to occupied Kashmir these days, ostensibly to encourage further repression in the occupied state. Angry anti-India demonstrations over the burning of Charar Sharif shrine have been continuing in all the towns and villages in the Muslim majority Kashmir Valley. Iran, Egypt

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and Bangladesh condemned the Charar Sharif outrage. Three motions, introduced in the British House of Commons have expressed concern and horror at the destruction of Charar Sharif. One motion noted that endless violence in Jammu and Kashmir is the result of the still unresolved destiny of the population there. Today's protest day is for the purpose of drawing the world attention to what is happening in the Indian-held Kashmir and the situation prevailing there at present. In the meantime Pakistan has drawn the attention of the United Nations Security council to the threats being made by Indian cabinet ministers about waging a new war with Pakistan. In a letter to the President of the Security Council, Foreign Minister Asif Ahmad Ali said that so long as the UN resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir remain unimplemented incidents of violations of the fundamental rights of the people of Kashmir would continue. The UN Security Council must realise that it is only the Jammu and Kashmir dispute which has be devilled relations between Pakistan and India for the last 48 years and unless appropriate measures are taken to address the dispute, peace and security in the region would remain an elusive dream.

Militants Use Missiles in Karachi Attack

BK2205142795 Hong Kong AFP in English 1347 GMT 22 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi, May 22 (AFP) — Militants fired missiles as violence escalated in Pakistan's commercial capital on Monday [22 May], claiming 12 more lives in a single day with the toll in five days rising to 45, officials said.

Three to four rocket-propelled grenades were fired in western Karachi at a police armoured personnel carrier, which was partially disabled in the attack, but no casualties were reported, an official said.

Police said armour-piercing bullets were also being fired from automatic weapons, increasing risks to security personnel.

Meanwhile in Sukkur, 490 kilometers (306 miles) north of here, a bus driver was burnt alive by unidentified assailants, reports said.

The driver was trapped when his vehicle, which did not have any passengers at the time, was set ablaze by the attackers whose identities were not kno@n, the reports said.

It was not known why the bus was attacked or whether the incident had any link with the current unrest in Karachi.

The use of rocket launchers and other missile weapons is considered a dangerous development in a city already bristling with an estimated 100,000 automatic assault weapons in the hands of militants.

The casualty toll Monday included a paramilitary soldier and two policemen who were among the dozen people killed. They died in attacks on security personnel by masked men, officials said.

Indiscriminate firing left six civilians dead in different parts of the city, while bullet-ridden bodies of three more people were found, police said.

The violence coincided with a day of mourning called by the ethnic-based Muhajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) to protest the killings of five of its activists.

The MQM, which represents the large Urdu-speaking community, said its men were killed ater being arrested by security personnel.

The entire city remained under a virtual siege as armed militants went on the rampage, burning at least 50 vehicles and shooting at random. Several people, including security personnel were injured by snipers.

Fire brigade sources said they were unable to move in the city without a police escort after receiving threats.

City-wide college examinations scheduled for Monday were postponed after many students failed to arrive at their examination centres.

Diplomats said they had issued warnings to their nationals to exercise caution when travelling in the city.

Officials said the spate of violence against law enforcement agencies was to "demoralise the police and (paramilitary) rangers."

"These militants are trying to check the ability and endurance of the police and rangers," an official said, suspecting that these activities were being controlled by the MQM.

An MQM spokesman denied involvement of his party's members in the current spate of violence and said the day of mourning was to have been peaceful. He blamed authorities for the violence, claiming it was being used to discredit the MQM.

Most government officials attribute this week's violence to Indian agents, charging that disturbances in Karachi were in retaliation for nationwide condemnation of the May 11 burning of an Islamic shrine in Indian-controlled Kashmir's Charar Sharif town.

More than 500 people have been killed in violence linked to ethnic, political and religious issues in Karachi this year. More than 1,000 died in similar violence last year.

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